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Albanians face tanks and helicopters


Serb troops pouring into rebel Kosovo

KOSOVO was sliding into war yesterday, as Serbian police and Yugoslav Army units flooded the province's western flank in unprecedented strength while rebel Albanian fighters emerged from frontline trenches in broad daylight.

More casualties were reported on both sides, for whom events on the ground are now a world away from the diplomatic niceties being exchanged among Western governments singularly unable to get to grips with Kosovo's intractable ethnic hatred.

The Serbs no longer care about sanctions and are fully prepared for the international opprobrium that would accompany a major offensive. The Albanians, their supply lines apparently cut, are prepared to fight to the death with what pathetic weaponry they have managed to smuggle in over the past months.

TOM WALKER takes to the backroads of Kosovo and encounters a peasant army ready to fight to the death



The battle for Kosovo has shifted from the province's central Drenica region to its western Decane borderlands, separated from Albania by the "Cursed Mountain" range. The territory is less hilly than Drenica, and ideal for the helicopters, tanks and armoured vehicles now openly deployed by the Serbs in defiance of every international warning Belgrade has had for the past two months.

The propaganda machines of both sides were spewing misinformation at full tilt yesterday, with figures and facts from the Serbs slightly more reliable. They admitted three Albanian guerrillas had been killed in overnight fighting

west of Decani town in the border foothills. The Albanians said that more than 20 of their fighters had died, overwhelmed by what they described as between 20 and 60 army tanks and special units dropped by helicopter in the small hours.

No independent confirmation was possible because all roads leading west of the axal Pec-Dakovica highway towards the border were closed by police. To the east of the road, the Albanian resistance dug in for what promises to be a hopelessly one-sided fight.

Dodging a group of horses while driving down a back track to check very dubious Serbian reports that Albanians had blown up an Orthodox church near the village of Rznic, journalists were suddenly looking down the barrels of well-worn shotguns. A peasant farmer army, sporting anything from ancient pistols to Chinese submachine guns of the 1970s, metamorphosed from a network of bunkers and trenches dug around a ploughed field.

After months of speculation about a well-armed and uniformed resistance force, this was apparently the real face of the Kosovo Liberation Army. The men, a group of about twenty ranging in age from

Continued on page 2, col 1



Kosovo Albanians bearing their compatriots' coffins to their mountain graves

Author of book on Mary Bell spent 6 months with child killer

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE author of the forthcoming book about Mary Bell disclosed yesterday that she spent six and a half months interviewing the child killer in depth about her background.

Gitta Sereny said she had spent between eight and ten hours a day over that period talking to and questioning Ms Bell about her life and her earliest childhood influences on Tyneside.

Ms Sereny, whose book, *Cries Unheard* will be serialised in *The Times* from Saturday, said that her access to Ms Bell, 41, had helped to produce a serious analysis of the reasons why children become killers.

Ms Sereny, author of *Albert Speer, His Battle with the Truth*, said that at times while she was carrying out her research, Ms Bell had become exhausted. "Quite often she became distressed and tearful and very tired." She said that Ms Bell had agreed to talk about her early life and influences following the death of her mother three years ago.

Ms Sereny refused to discuss how much money she had paid to Ms Bell for her collaboration in what she said was a serious book.

Last night, as controversy over the book deal continued, Peter Stohard, Editor of *The Times*, who has read *Cries Unheard*, said: "It is an intensely serious work on a serious subject by one of the few people in the world with the experience and moral authority to write it."

He added: "The *Times* would not serialise this book if it in any way glamorised Bell's crimes or dealt with them in a superficial way. I ask those tempted to rush to judgment to wait until they have seen the book."

Ms Sereny is a distinguished author and journalist

who attended every day of Ms Bell's trial in 1968. Her 1972 book *The Case of Mary Bell* was the definitive account of Ms Bell's killings while she was still a child.

Yesterday Larry Laggan, the police officer who arrested Ms Bell, joined the mother of one of her victims in condemning the payment of money to her. Mr Laggan, 73, said: "Mary Bell should never be allowed to profit from her crimes. They brought so much misery. I have deep sympathies for the families. It has also brought the spotlight back on Mary Bell even though she has been given the protection of anonymity since her release from prison."

Ms Bell was convicted of the manslaughter of Martin Brown, four, and Brian Howe, three, on the grounds of diminished responsibility. She was 11 at the time. Martin would have been 34 yesterday and his mother June Richardson spent the anniversary campaigning against the book.

"I'm not against this book coming out. If people want to read this book, let them read it, but ban it until all this money goes to charities to help victims in the future," she said. "It's a terrible thing for someone to kill your child. It's worse to know they're getting money and are living off it."

Martin Wharson, the Bishop of Newcastle, added his voice to the argument against Ms Bell receiving money. "I am appalled and offended by the fact that she will make money from this," he said.

"I don't know what sort of a person she can possibly be but I just think what she's doing is totally wrong. Two children died and we must not forget that."

Ms Sereny is a distinguished author and journalist

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Nato watches and waits, but is unlikely to act

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NATO views the violence in Kosovo with increasing alarm but there is no support for military intervention.

Political directors of the Contact Group countries will meet in Rome tomorrow to see if there is any consensus for imposing new sanctions on Belgrade, but only America is expected to demand tough action against President

Milosevic. Washington has said that it is prepared to act unilaterally if necessary.

Nato sources said that one option was to "beef up" the 800-strong peacekeeping force in neighbouring Macedonia to prevent any spillover of the violence in Kosovo. But an official said that Nato intervention in the province was impossible because it was part of Yugoslavia and there was no enthusiasm for backing the Albanian resistance.

Warlord returns, page 11

Role for Blair

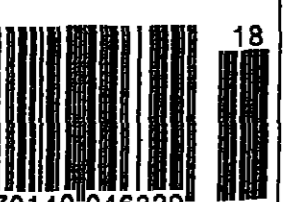
The Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has indicated that Tony Blair would play a significant role at next week's Middle East peace conference in London... Page 18

Body found

A man's body was found dumped in a country lane 200 yards south of the Irish border yesterday in a manner often used by the IRA to eliminate informers... Page 2

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Tunisia Din 3.200; USA \$3.50



Smoking risk 'depends on single battling gene'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS in Scotland have shown that a smoker's fate may depend on a single gene.

The gene provides a defence against the toxic chemicals in cigarette smoke. When the gene is disabled in mice, they quickly develop skin tumours in response to cigarette smoke.

Professor Roland Wolf, who led the team from Dundee, Glasgow and Edinburgh, said yesterday: "It has long been known that our bodies contain factors which determine our sensitivity to cancer-causing chemicals. Now we have shown that a single gene could be profoundly important in protecting us against cancer. That's good news, because it's easier to manipulate one gene than many."

The gene is the one responsible for making an enzyme

called glutathione S-transferase. This appears to have a protective role, perhaps by helping to break down the toxic chemicals in cigarette smoke which can otherwise start a tumour developing.

"We are taking in potentially harmful chemicals all the time," Professor Wolf says. "The only way to survive is by making enzymes which will detoxify them."

The gene is known to be present in humans, and is found in the lungs and bladder, two places where cancer is strongly linked to smoking. It is also known to exist in slightly different forms in different people, with different capacities for detoxifying chemicals. This, the Scottish team believes, may well explain how some people survive to an old age in spite of

years of smoking, while others die young from cancer.

The experiments, reported in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, involved "knock-out" mice, animals in which a particular gene is deliberately disabled to observe the effects. The team treated the skin of the mice with chemicals called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, which are found in cigarette smoke. The mice without the enzyme developed tumours much more rapidly than the normal mice, about ten tumours per animal instead of three.

Lung cancer is the most common form of cancer in the UK, causing more than 36,000 deaths a year. It is the biggest cancer killer in men and second only to breast cancer in women.

Stock market falls over US rate fears

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE LONDON stock market yesterday suffered its sharpest fall this year as fears of a rise in American interest rates triggered worldwide selling of shares.

Investors took fright from a report suggesting that the Federal Reserve is seriously considering raising interest rates to prevent the American economy from overheating.

The FTSE 100 index of leading shares tumbled 141.5 points to close at 5722.4 — some 400 points below the record closing high set earlier this month.

Shares on Wall Street were more than 200 points lower by the close in London, while stock markets in both Paris and Frankfurt recorded heavy falls.

Most major Western markets have touched record highs in recent weeks, boosted

by the continuing strong performance of the American and British economies and an improving economic outlook in the rest of Europe. Yesterday's sudden falls will revive concern that the markets could be about to undertake a major correction in coming weeks.

Analysts tried to soothe fears of a major crash, pointing out that trading volumes on both Wall Street and London were relatively thin, suggesting the fall was due to investor caution rather than panic selling.

The Federal Open Market Committee, which decides interest rate policy in the United States, is scheduled to hold its next meeting on May 19. American interest rates have remained unchanged for more than a year at 5.5 per cent.

Market slide, page 27

Team gets a little extra help from Nationwide

By ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

A WINNING shot thudded into the back of an open goal yesterday as rivalry between financial institutions spread from the nation's high streets to a small northern football club.

The open goal was at Halifax, West Yorkshire, where the local team needed sponsorship for its return to the Football League, but had not been able to raise support from a well-known bank that is based locally and usually likes to boast of giving a little extra help.

The chance of a winning

shot was seized by the Nationwide Building Society, which sponsors the Football League. The opportunity was too good to miss. A spokesman for the Nationwide said: "We are delighted to be able to give Halifax Town Football Club a little extra help in their first season back in the League."

No figures were being released for the one-year deal, but John Stockwell, chairman of Halifax Town, said: "It is mutually beneficial. Everyone is looking forward to working with the world's number-one building society."

Mr Stockwell has been turned down by the Halifax several times. The Halifax



X marks the spot: Halifax gave rivals a clear shot



same time, the Halifax (along with the Woolwich, Cheltenham & Gloucester, the Alliance & Leicester and others) have swapped building-society status for ownership by shareholders and life as Stock Exchange quoted companies, turning the old cosy way of life upside down. The thought of being forced along the same route brings fits of anxiety on executives of the Nationwide and its fellow travellers.

The Nationwide said: "As a building society, we like to invest in communities. We were somewhat surprised to find the club could not find a corporate sponsor locally."

such as the Nationwide boast that they offer a better deal because they are mutually owned by their customers. Building societies have no shareholders, and therefore have no obligations to spend money on dividends. At the

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Iran was angered last week by

Iran was angered last week by

When words speak louder than actions, count the spoons

Imagine a Commons gathered for a Cabinet minister's statement. None of the details of what, when, why or by whom matter. The time — indeed the century — is immaterial. So is the identity of the minister and the subject of the statement.

Forget such irrelevances: study instead the wording; guess the mood. Is it optimistic? Does the minister understand the problem? Is anything serious about to be done? Is this the vocabulary of one who knows what to do?

The minister rises. "Madam Speaker ... pleased to lay before

the House the Government's White Paper, *Tackling xxx to Build a Better Britain* ... strategy for the next ten years ... strategy ... effective action a priority ... distinctive strategies ... important step forward ... fresh long-term approach ... galvanise efforts ... new energy and action ... tackle these challenges.

"Responsibility for action ... partnership essential ... consistent in our messages ... communities ... range of problems ... communities ... more strategic response ... considerable expertise ... effective and consistent ... intensive



review ... new strategy ... rigorous assessment ... real impact ... new strategy ... clear, consistent and rigorous targets, early priorities ... clear baselines for targets. "Action comprehensive ... wide-reaching programme ... focus as necessary ... tackle ... focus ... impact ... programme of action ... programmes for young people ... action ... action ... enhanced effort ... focus ... tackle ... a detailed resource framework building the strategy ... clear commitment ... objectives ... aims to tackle ... tackling problems ... only a beginning ... action and achievement ... "Co-ordinating role ... work together to tackle ... strategy on the ground ... relevant and effective ... strategy ambitious but realistic ... clear and challenging ... new

objectives ... partnership and common purpose ... commitment, effort and energy ... real progress ... I commend it to the House.

In political discourse, a reliable general rule is that the sincerity with which a lofty term is used varies in inverse proportion to the frequency with which it is invoked. To put it as Emerson did: "The louder he talked of his honour, the faster we counted our spoons." Shakespeare captured the same thought in "The lady doth protest too much, methinks".

Key words in the discourse extracted above are "action" and

"effort". We may conclude that both are despised. Another is "tackle". We may conclude that no serious attempt to tackle anything is envisaged. Also recurring often are "strategy", "focus", "clear" and "co-ordinate". We may conclude that the approach is unfocused, unclear and uncoordinated, lacking strategy. The appearance twice of an unusual word, "rigour", suggests that there can be none. "New" keeps coming up. Conclusion? There is nothing new. So does "commitment": it must be lacking. But the giveaway is the repetition of the words "real" and "realistic". We

may conclude that the plans announced are unreal and unrealistic. When I tell you that some 23 government backbenchers bothered to attend, their numbers swelled by 16 opposition MPs, you will surely guess that yesterday Ann Taylor, the Leader of the Commons, was unveiling a national strategy to tackle drugs. She promised a clear, focused, ambitious, energetic, galvanised, rigorous, co-ordinated strategy of action to tackle the problem.

There was a thin cheer. You may conclude that the Government has more or less given up.

Call for IRA to identify graves of 'disappeared'

THE Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, will tomorrow receive an official report that is expected to demand that the IRA identify the unmarked graves of all those it secretly killed during the past 30 years.

As the Government prepares to release all IRA prisoners within two years, the man it commissioned to devise a memorial to the 3,200 victims of the Troubles will also call on the IRA to reciprocate by allowing the hundreds of people that it exiled to return.

"There are two categories people need to think about much more seriously," said Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, the former head of Northern Ireland's civil service who has spent six months talking to the victims' families.

His report will call for immediate practical assistance for those families, whose plight has been largely forgotten, to be followed by a physical memorial later.

At least a dozen people are known to have been abducted and killed by the IRA and buried in fields or building sites, but there are probably scores more whose families dare not speak out or believe their sons or husbands were simply exiled.

The 12 include Robert Nairac, the SAS captain seized outside the Three Steps Inn in South Armagh while working undercover in 1977.

Sir Kenneth said several relatives had raised the fate of the so-called "disappeared" with him. Revealing the graves would risk incrimination, he said, but "if there's to be a more peaceful atmosphere surely the information can be put forward without prejudicing anybody to set these peoples' minds at rest".

The number exiled by the IRA and loyalist paramilitaries exceeds 1,000, said Olyn Roberts, spokesman for the Belfast pressure group Families Against Intimidation and Terror. They are ordered

Mo Mowlam is to consider a report urging recognition for the secret victims, reports Martin Fletcher

to leave the province for alleged offences ranging from drug dealing to informing.

One organisation that works anonymously said it helped 80 people to go into exile last year and 100 others the year before.

Mr Roberts said these issues had to be addressed and added that he was delighted that Sir Kenneth was pursuing them. "At the very least when the vast majority of IRA prisoners are being released one expects them to take moves to allow the exiles to return and to reveal the unmarked graves of the disappeared," he said.

Seamus McKendry who runs a separate group called Families of the Disappeared, said he supported the release of prisoners, but it would be "grossly unfair" if they resumed normal lives while their victims' relatives continued to suffer. Mr McKendry's

mother-in-law, Jean McConville, was abducted from her West Belfast flat in 1972 after she had comforted a dying soldier and never seen again. She was a widow, and her ten children were left to fend for themselves for two months until they were discovered by social workers and dispersed to different homes.

Weeks after her disappearance, a stranger arrived at the door of the flat and handed the children their mother's purse and three rings.

Helen McKendry, her doubts the IRA would dare reveal the whereabouts of the body now. In an interview with *The Times* in February she said it would turn the community against their self-styled protectors.

The other known "disappeared" are: □ Seamus Wright and Kevin McKee, executed in 1972 for being informers. The deaths were kept secret because they were from prominent republican families in West Belfast. They are believed to be buried in fields in South Armagh.

□ John McIlroy and Seamus Wright, suspected informers from Andersonstown in West Belfast who disappeared on their way to work in 1974.

□ Columba McVeigh, a 17-year-old from Dungannon in County Tyrone, abducted and killed in 1975 for suspected collaboration with security forces.

□ John McClory, 18, and Brian McKinney, 22, petty criminals from Andersonstown, West Belfast, abducted from work in 1978.

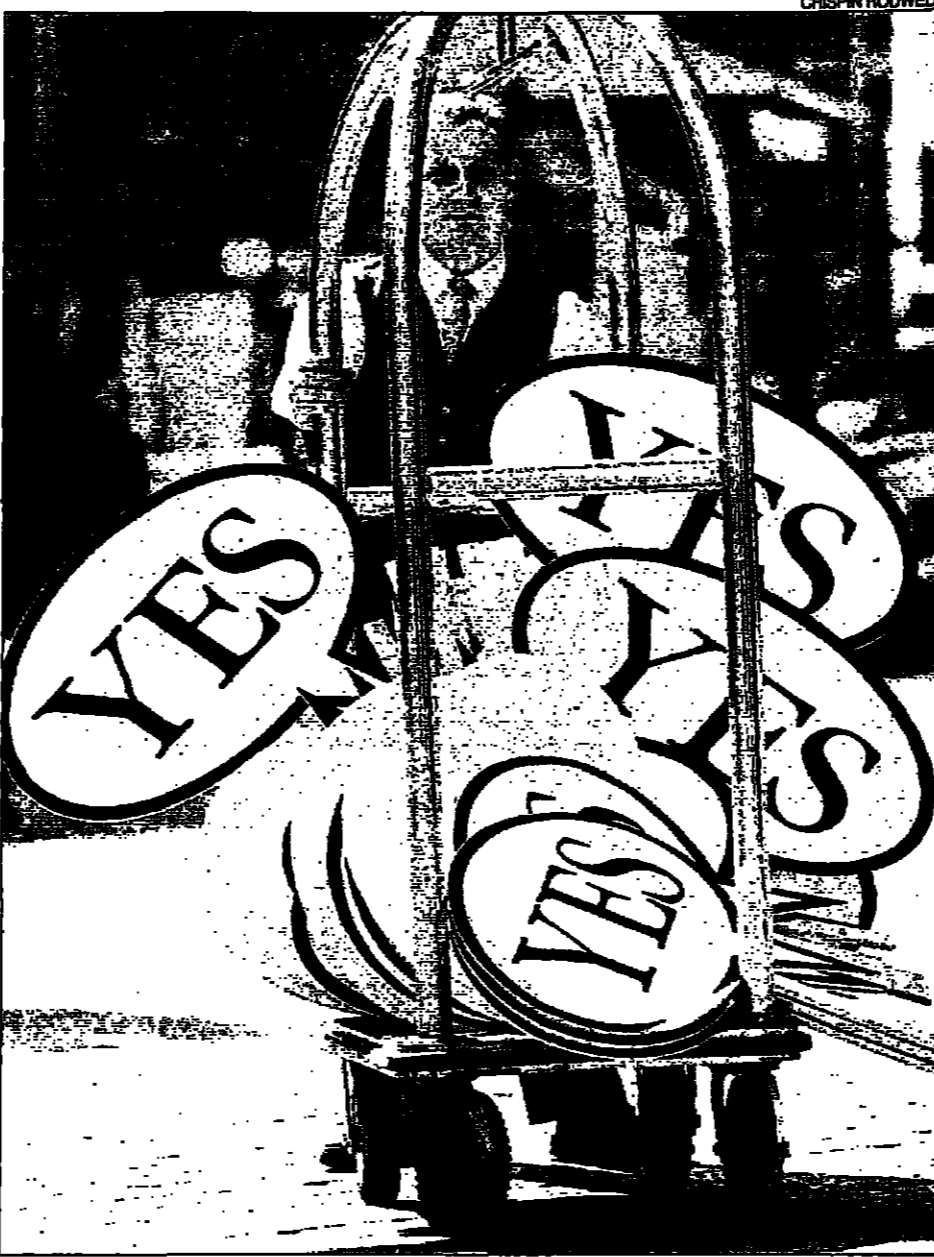
□ Gerald Evans, an unemployed painter from staunchly-republican Crossmaglen in South Armagh who did not tow the IRA's line. He was last seen hitch-hiking home from Castleblayney.

□ Charlie Armstrong, Evans' 55-year-old neighbour in Crossmaglen, left to collect a friend for mass one Sunday and was never seen again in 1980.

After a meeting of the TUC



Sir Kenneth Bloomfield: said families need help



Placards for a new campaign group are taken into the Europa Hotel in Belfast

'Informer' found shot

By MARTIN FLETCHER

A MAN'S body was found dumped in country lane 200 yards south of the Irish Constabulary and other republican demands at a 90-minute Downing Street meeting with Tony Blair.

Both sides described the meeting as constructive, though Downing Street ruled out RUC disbandment and said troops would remain as long as they were needed.

In Belfast, supporters of the peace agreement yesterday launched a £5,000 "Yes" campaign, to try to galvanise public support. The nationalist Social Democratic and

Labour Party and the centrist Alliance Party are starting their campaigns this week, while David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party is becoming more supportive.

Sinn Fein released a videotape last night showing listening devices purportedly found in a Belfast house used by Gerry Kelly, one of the party's negotiating team and a former IRA convict.

Three men linked to hard-line republicans were arrested in Dublin early yesterday after police discovered radio scanners and mobile phones in their vehicle near Dublin airport.

midday while Gerry Adams was pressing the case for demilitarisation, the disbandment of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and other republican demands at a 90-minute Downing Street meeting with Tony Blair.

Both sides described the meeting as constructive, though Downing Street ruled out RUC disbandment and said troops would remain as long as they were needed.

In Belfast, supporters of the peace agreement yesterday launched a £5,000 "Yes" campaign, to try to galvanise public support. The nationalist Social Democratic and

Kosovo faces war

Continued from page 1 their 30s to their 60s, sons and grandfathers promising to defend homes and families. They wore a ragged mixture of denim, cotton checks and leather, topped by nothing more protective than the odd baseball cap: some spoke only Albanian, others German, and just a few, English.

They were friendly, but clearly frightened, and urged us to leave quickly. Desperately they tried us for what information we had: where were the last tanks and armoured personnel carriers we had seen? What news had we of casualties? "We are waiting for them," a younger man said in German. "We will push them back."

We left for a funeral of some of their brothers in arms, three miles south at Erec. A column of six coffins draped in Albanian red preceded women of the bereaved families clad in white headscarves. Following among a crowd of a thousand men, we skirted beneath vil-

low trees and on to the freshly cut earth of the burial mound, the mountains where the men were ambushed and died towering above us to the west.

One woman screamed against the perfidy of the West and the terrorism of the Serbs; as more women sobbed and waited, the rattle of automatic weapons fire broke out from near the KLA front lines. A Yugoslav Army helicopter whirred low down the highway. The coffins were finally lowered, accompanied by cheers of defiance and the Albanian two-fingered salute.



Blair shows no sign of budging on deadlock with the unions

Jill Sherman and Christine Buckley report on TUC anger

THE dispute between Tony Blair and the unions over compulsory recognition escalated sharply yesterday, when the TUC rejected the Government's position as "unreasonable and unworkable".

A meeting with the Prime Minister at Downing Street ended in deadlock. A TUC delegation presented a paper to Tony Blair and Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, during an hour-long meeting which detailed the TUC's "bottom line" over the trigger point for achieving statutory union recognition in the workplace.

But Mr Blair gave no sign that he was prepared to bow to their demands, and the two sides remained at loggerheads. The current stand could prove a crucial test to the future of union links with Labour.

council last night, the unions released a paper rejecting proposals that 40 per cent of a workforce must back recognition before it can be granted. The Government has put that figure in previous meetings with the unions. In yesterday's meeting, Mr Blair did not stipulate a figure.

Last week John Monks, the TUC general secretary, angered several union leaders after conceding that the unions would accept a figure of 30 per cent. Initially, the TUC had demanded a simple majority of those voting in workplace ballots.

Mr Blair is determined not to cave into the unions and to lose the goodwill that he has built up with business. The

Confederation of British Industry has moved significantly from opposing the legislation outright to privately backing the 40 per cent figure.

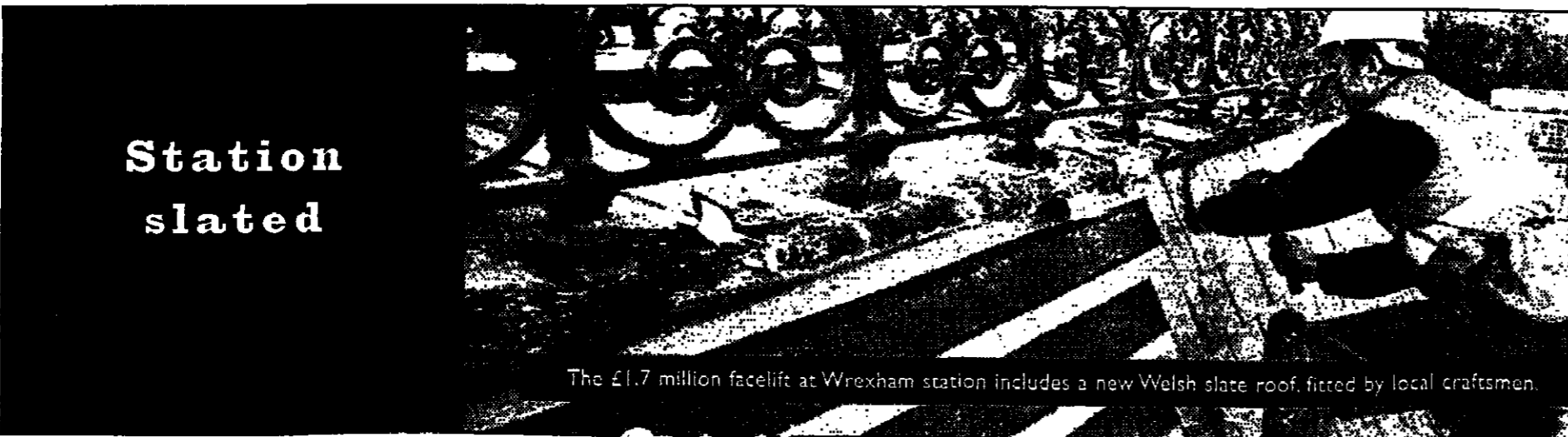
Yesterday's six-page document significantly failed to put a figure on the union's position. It admitted that there should be a "healthy turnout in recognition ballots" and said that "there could be a case" for specifying a minimum yes vote. However, requiring very high figures such as a 40 per cent yes vote would be unreasonable and unworkable, it added.

The TUC document calls for an independent agency to deal with applications for union recognition, but rejects "com-

plex requirements" on thresholds because they would cause confusion: "They can also produce some perverse outcomes and give absences equal or even more weight than no votes. This cannot be right."

The TUC also decided to postpone a conference it had planned in London on May 6 to discuss recognition. Mr Monks believes that there will be further meetings with Mr Blair. The White Paper, *Fairness at Work*, looks set to be delayed to mid-May.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said that Mr Blair wanted all sides to be given time to feed their views to the Government and feel that they had been properly consulted before a final decision. Mr Blair was said to be impressed by the desire of the TUC and the CBI to approach the subject constructively.



Station slated

233

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مكتبة من الأصيل

SAS soldier ran illegal gun courses

A CORPORAL in the SAS organised illegal weapon and anti-terrorist courses for civilians at an army base, a court was told yesterday.

Manchester United footballers, England and Wales rugby players, Lloyd's underwriters and gun-club members were among those who paid up to £350 each to take part. Southwark Crown Court was told.

The corporal and a colour sergeant in the 5th Airborne Brigade's Pathfinder Platoon pleaded guilty to offences under the Firearms Act. But Judge Peter Fingert gave them an absolute discharge after hearing that senior officers had approved the courses because they were unaware they were illegal. He criticised confusion within the Army and the Ministry of Defence.

The two men, referred to for security reasons as X and Y, were paid to allow civilians to fire M16 and SA80 assault rifles, 9mm Browning handguns, machineguns and anti-tank weapons, using live and blank ammunition. They also gave instruction on military tactics in Northern Ireland, evasive driving techniques such as handbrake turns, bomb detection and ambushes in woods.

Courses took place at the SAS base in Hereford, and Aldershot where two undercover police officers joined a group of Mayfair Gun Club members on the ranges and practice grounds. The prosecution said the pair were told "backhanders" had been paid to "set the day up" and that they were warned they must never tell anyone about the occasion — allegations vehemently denied by the soldiers who insisted they did nothing underhand.

The court was told that the officers and the others fired M16 and SA80 rifles, as well as a general purpose machinegun. On a second occasion the officers, who this time paid £275 each, pocketed spent cartridges, noted the serial numbers of some of the weapons and marked them

Judge frees men and attacks Army for confusion on the law, write Joanna Bale and Adam Fresco

with a fluorescent dye, and fired 9mm Browning pistols and light anti-tank weapons. X and Y were arrested a few days later, but denied doing anything wrong. X agreed he had been paid £1,100 for his services during the two days but said he gave Y £800 of that. The former Pathfinder soldier said he paid £600 of his money into his platoon's unofficial Glee Club fund, which paid for barbecues and flowers to mark births and deaths.

The men insisted the events were held principally to raise money for the fund, although another aim had been to "cement relations" with the Mayfair Gun Club. The judge rejected the Crown's contention that they were just trying to make money.

Philip Levy, for X, told the court: "The reason this trial was staged was because a senior officer tried to make scapegoats of these officers, suggesting they acted without his authority." He said there

had been an attempt to cover up the truth. Both his client and Y had acted with the "full knowledge and consent" of a senior officer and had arranged the two events in "complete safety and in accordance with recognised military practice and orders".

Soldier X said he was told to resign from the SAS: "I was just cast adrift." He is now the bodyguard for the chief executive of a multinational oil company, working abroad for £220 a day.

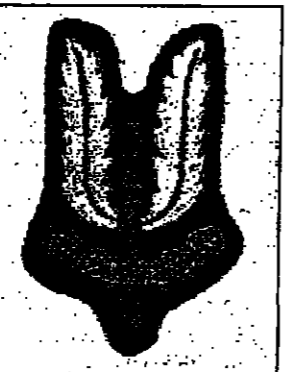
Soldier Y, who has 17 years' service, said he has been forced out of the Pathfinders. He is still in the Army but claims his career prospects have been seriously damaged.

The court had earlier been told that Manchester United footballers and England and Wales rugby players had fired prohibited weapons at the SAS's base at Hereford. A photograph was shown to the court of the former Manchester United striker Norman Whiteside, apparently at SAS headquarters on an occasion when team-mates were said to have fired weapons. But last night he denied handling any weapons and said he had only attended a dinner.

The Welsh and English Rugby Football Unions last night denied ever arranging a trip to the SAS in Hereford. Outside the court, Alice Dodd, solicitor for X, said that since the two were arrested their army careers had been seriously prejudiced and they had lost pay and pension rights. She said she was confident the Army would compensate the two men, but added that legal action might follow.

Two members of the Mayfair Gun Club, Martin Brock, 38, and Miles Lant, 34, were cleared of two counts of possessing M16 and SA80 assault rifles in August and October, 1996, after no evidence was offered against them.

An MoD spokesman said: "We will study very carefully the comments the judge is reported to have made."



SAS insignia: courses were run at its base

Lady Lucan wants earl declared dead

THE wife of the Earl of Lucan is taking steps to have her husband declared legally dead, 24 years after he disappeared. Countess Lucan, 61, has asked the executor of her husband's will to swear an affidavit that he believes Lord Lucan committed suicide in November 1974.

The earl, who would now be 64, is still wanted by police for the murder of the family's nanny and a brutal attack on his wife. Despite the legal move, the Metropolitan Police said yesterday that the file would remain open and any new leads would be investigated. One detective still collates possible sightings from around the world.

The earl's bloodstained car was found abandoned at the port of Newhaven, East Sussex, hours after Sandra Rivett was found bludgeoned to death at the Lucans' home in Belgravia, London. Lady Lucan — she now calls herself the Dowager Countess Lucan — still lives near by. She said yesterday that she was convinced her husband had committed suicide and she now wanted the fact officially recognised.

"It was a terrible storm on the night that his car was found and I believe he jumped from the boat. I would stake my life on the fact that he is now dead. That is why I call myself dowager, because I am a widow."

Lady Lucan raised the alarm about the killing when, covered in blood, she stumbled into a pub saying that her

Police files will remain open despite moves to close the book on a brutal family chapter. Adrian Lee reports

husband had murdered Miss Rivett with a length of lead piping. Since then, there have been countless sightings and police have followed many false trails.

One theory — supported by some officers — is that Lucan, a noted gambler, faked his death and fled to South Africa, where he underwent plastic surgery. Detectives are believed to have trailed the Bingham children to South Africa several years ago in the vain hope that they might be led to Lucan.

The earl's son, Lord Bingham, 30, who, along with his sisters, is estranged from his mother, was reported last year to be preparing to take the family title by having his father formally declared dead. He has since dropped the plans.

Three years ago he obtained a court order allowing the family to deal with his father's financial affairs as if he were dead, but stopped short of pronouncing him deceased.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "The matter is never closed until we have a conviction. Strange as it may sound, we would still like to speak to Lord Lucan in connection with our inquiries into the death of Sandra Rivett."

"We do still get sightings

reported. It amounts to a few reports every year that are interesting to us."

Lady Lucan, who was in the throes of a bitter custody battle with her husband at the time, is thought to have been the target for the attack. She said yesterday: "The police are merely doing their duty by saying they are keeping the murder file open, but they know as well as the rest of us that my husband died 24 years ago."

When Richard John Bingham, the 7th Earl, vanished, he had large gambling debts. A former Guards officer, he was a familiar figure at the Clermont Club in Berkeley Square, where, despite the nickname "Lucky", he ran through his inheritance playing roulette and backgammon.

The Lucan family still owns extensive land in Castlebar, Co Mayo, but tenants have refused to pay any rent since the earl's disappearance. Arrears amount to several hundred thousand pounds.

An application will have to be made to the Crown Office before his death is official.

His mother, Lady Kaitlin Lucan, who died in 1985, always resisted attempts to have him declared dead and maintained that he was innocent.



The nanny Louise Sullivan and her mother, Robyn, arrive at Clerkenwell Magistrates' Court yesterday

Nanny denies harming child

By Stephen Farrell

THE Australian nanny accused of inflicting serious head injuries on a six-month-old girl yesterday denied causing her harm.

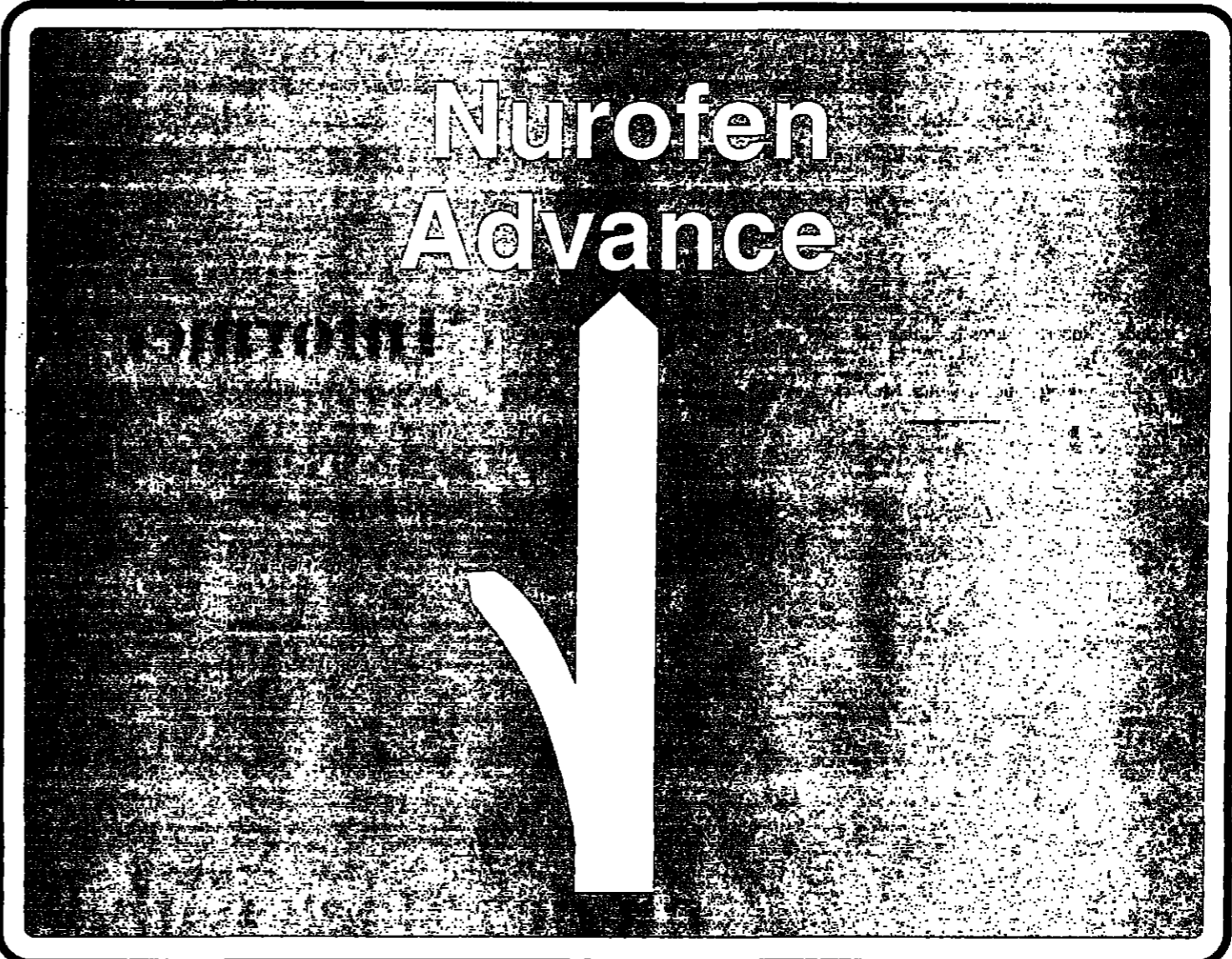
Six days after the death of Caroline Jorgens, her former live-in nanny, Louise Sullivan, 26, appeared at Clerkenwell Magistrates' Court charged with grievous bodily harm.

Wearing a brown jacket and skirt and sitting near her mother, Robyn, Miss Sullivan, 26, spoke only twice during the 15-minute hearing to confirm that she understood the charge and indicate that she would be pleading not guilty.

Miss Sullivan, from Fairlight, New South Wales, was remanded on conditional bail until June 8.

At the opening of the inquest later, the pathologist Freddy Patel told Stephen Chan, the St Pancras Coroner, that a post-mortem examination had detected evidence of haemorrhaging to the brain and eyes. He gave a provisional cause of death as *commotio cerebri*, or intercranial catastrophe, but said further tests were needed and he would consult other specialists before making his final report.

Dr Chan adjourned the inquest for 23 days and released Caroline's body for burial.



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Lady Lucan, Lord Lucan, still wanted for murder, and their son, Lord Bingham

Drug barons must pay to ease suffering

MONEY seized from convicted drug barons will be used to provide treatment for addicts and to fund education programmes for children as part of a long-term, national strategy announced yesterday.

The 10-year plan, which was drawn up by Keith Hellawell, the UK Drugs Co-ordinator and Special Adviser to the Prime Minister, was outlined in a White Paper which proposes that most public spending on drugs will move from reactive work, such as prisons and policing, to education and treatment. It calls for a new commitment to concentrate on children aged from 5 to 16, to stifle future markets.

The White Paper is titled *Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain*, and says: "For the first time, a proportion of the assets seized from drug barons will be channelled back into anti-drugs programmes to help those who have suffered at their hands and on whose misfortune they have prospered."

Seized assets would be earmarked specifically for the annual bill for anti-drugs work. Ministers are now working on financial proposals which will be announced later this year. Until now, the Treasury has resisted attempts to designate seized assets for particular tasks, although some cash awards made by American agencies for cooperation in drug investigations have been given to police. Courts seize about £5 million a year in assets, but this figure could rise dramatically under the new scheme.

In a forward to the paper, Tony Blair said: "Britain is a

Stewart Tendler
on how seized assets will be spent on treating addicts and warning children

better place to live in. But it would be so much better if we could break once and for all the vicious cycle of drugs and crime which wrecks lives and threatens communities. I hope that this tough new package of measures will mean the end of a life of misery for many young people and will improve the quality of life for all those who currently suffer as a result of drugs."

At a Downing Street reception last night, the Prime Minister said that reducing crime and drug use were two of the toughest challenges for the Government; the drugs policy would be the framework for achieving a real reduction in drug-related crime.

At the moment, 62 per cent of the £1.4 billion annual bill for drugs work goes on domestic enforcement, compared with 13 per cent on treatment and 12 per cent on education. The White Paper says that it is time for a move from "reactive expenditure dealing with consequences of drugs to positive investment in helping prevent them ever arising."

All agencies will be given a year to make plans to meet the

proposals, and targets will be set for performance. The drugs co-ordinator will monitor progress and issue an annual report.

The White Paper proposes a four-pronged attack. This will be based on targeting young people, protecting communities from crime and anti-social behaviour, better treatment for users and restricting drug supplies.

It makes clear that the strategy will concentrate on heroin and cocaine, which are regarded as causing the greatest damage. In a report attached to the White Paper, Mr Hellawell says that there will be no easing of the law on cannabis or Ecstasy: "The more evidence that becomes available about the risks of cannabis and Ecstasy, the more discredited the notion that any of the substances currently controlled are harmless."

The majority of people have never taken drugs, he said, and a majority of those who do use them do so for recreational reasons.

The group of greatest concern were the addicts, because they are responsible for a substantial amount of crime and cost over £4 billion a year. They are abused by dealers and pimps and they put huge demands on the services, yet the response to this group has been patchy.

The number of addicts and the amount of drug-related crime is still rising. Police estimate that up to half of all crime involves drugs. The White Paper estimates that 48 per cent of under-25s have used illegal drugs and that



Keith Hellawell speaking to children yesterday at Tower Hamlets. Later, he said of his plan: "We have got to be sensible and realistic."

there are up to 200,000 addicts.

The average age of first drug use is dropping: 1 in 12 of 12-year-olds have tried drugs at least once, as have 1 in 3 of 14-year-olds and 2 in 5 of 16-year-olds. More than half of the homeless population use drugs regularly, and problem drug users spend an average of £200 a week on an addiction.

Arguing that there is increasing evidence that the earlier children start taking drugs, the greater the risk that they will encounter difficulties, the Government aims to

cut back use of drugs by the under-25s. This will mean classroom education from the age of five, new publicity campaigns and promotion of healthy lifestyles.

The second objective will involve preventing drug users from reoffending. The White Paper suggests trying more projects giving police and the courts powers to send offenders for drug treatment and testing, to make sure they do not go back to drug use.

Under the third target, the White Paper promises more treatment resources for problem drug users. Harm reduc-

tion programmes and rehabilitation have been shown to work, and the White Paper said that rehabilitation had had real gains in cutting crime.

The fourth target aims to cutting drug supplies. In the next year, the Government will watch the activities of Customs and the police to make sure they are working together.

Launching the White Paper in the Commons, Ann Taylor, Leader of the House, said there were signals that levels of drug misuse had become stable in England and Wales.

She said: "This suggests that drug misuse is neither inevitably bound to increase nor irreversible. But the problems do remain acute."

Speaking after the Commons statement, Mr Hellawell said that it would be impossible to guarantee a drug-free society within ten years. He said: "We have got to be sensible and realistic, and realise that some people experiment with drugs and get addicted."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolteachers and Union of Woman Teachers,

said there was little hard evidence for any benefits of teaching small children about drugs. The policy was another attempt to dump society's problems on the schools, he added.

The Standing Conference on Drug Abuse, representing 500 agencies, said that the strategy needed guarantees that there will be cash to see it through. The Association of Chief Police Officers supported the move towards prevention and treatment, but said that police would resist cash cuts as they still had to protect communities.

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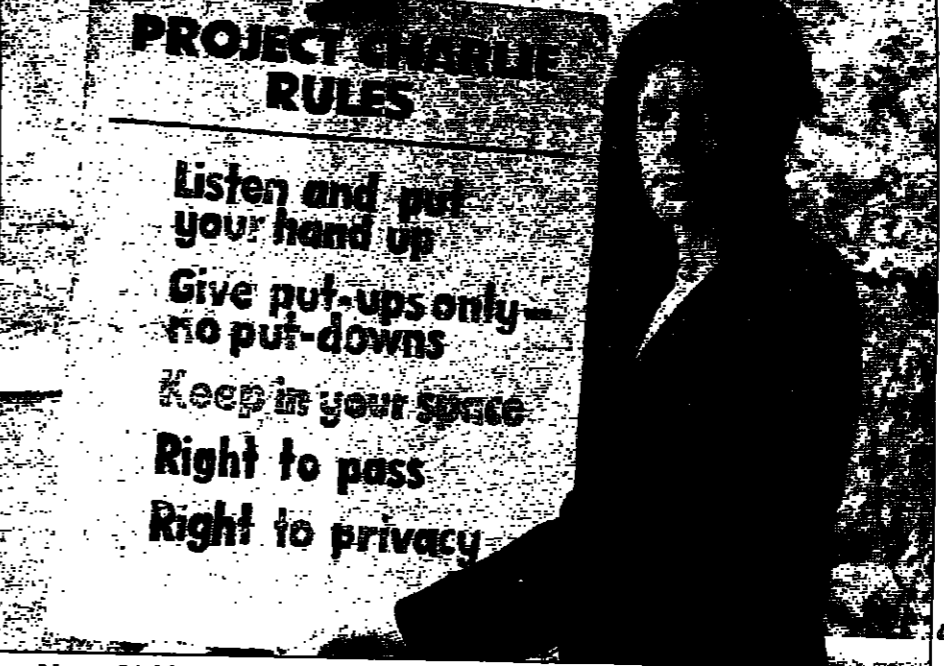
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Helping pupils to see risks

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

NANCY HOBBS developed a drugs course for children aged 5 to 11 and pioneered lessons in the East End of London after fleeing for the safety of her own children.

She holds regular classes at Culloden School, Tower Hamlets - the school visited yesterday by Keith Hellawell, the drugs co-ordinator, and Ann Taylor, Leader of the House, to see for themselves how children cope with such information.

Mrs Hobbs became interested in the drugs issue because she was worried how her own children - now teenagers - would cope with pressure from friends or strangers to try cannabis or Ecstasy. She

was living in America with her financier husband and found out about a pilot scheme in Minnesota - Project Charlie (Chemical Abuse Resolution Lies in Education).

Today if Mrs Hobbs faces a class of six or seven year olds she teaches them how to keep their bodies healthy. The horrors of heroin and cocaine do not feature until the children are older. But they are taught how to react if they are offered a drug or a cigarette. They are taught who to turn to for help and how to cope with peer pressure.

"I want children to have skills so they can make a sensible decision for themselves. I want them to know

how they can cope in a particular situation."

With the youngest pupils, she speaks about drugs in very general terms. "I explain if they are helpful or harmful, and the effect on the body."

With older children, Mrs Hobbs is more explicit. She says the information helps to give them confidence before secondary school. She also backs up the lessons with classes for parents.

Home Office research on Mrs Hobbs's work has found that children taught about the danger of drugs at the age of 10 were less likely to have smoked cigarettes or tried drugs at the age of 14 than those who were not.

Heroin godfather is sentenced to 26 years

By ADAM FRESCO

A BODY in a shallow forest grave led to police smashing the biggest heroin smuggling operation in this country and the jailing yesterday of a man described by police as the godfather of Turkish organised crime in Britain.

Umit Kulunk, 48, from Harrow, northwest London, ran the operation to smuggle and distribute tens of millions of pounds worth of the drug through a network of dealers in London, Manchester, Liverpool and Scotland.

Kulunk, who admitted conspiracy to supply 400 kilograms of heroin, worth an estimated £65 million, was jailed for 26 years at Woolwich Crown Court. Heroin was imported from Turkey, sold, and millions of pounds sent back to his bosses there by

couriers. The gang, who were all Turks or Turkish Cypriots, hid high-grade heroin in secret compartments. Vehicles would be met in this country and directed to safe houses.

Detectives were led to Kulunk after four men were kept under observation in April 1996. After arresting two of them they found 44 kilograms of heroin under a bed in a house in Tottenham, North London.

A diary found on the body in the woods was linked to the four men. Mustafa Zarif, a Turkish Cypriot, had been strangled in a drugs-related killing.

Yesterday Ozer Esat, 54, from northern Cyprus, who denied conspiracy, was jailed for 23 years. Arkin Izzigil, 25,

from Hackney, East London, a cashier in the Turkish Bank in London, and the money launderer, also denied conspiracy charge and two charges connected to money laundering. He was sentenced to 18 years. Tan Onbasi, 22, from Enfield, North London, who denied conspiracy to supply, was sentenced to 20 years.

Another gang member still on the run, Mustafa Kuni, is believed to be living off his millions in Cyprus.

Detective Inspector John Collins of East London drug squad said: "These people imported crime and misery on a massive scale. Turkish organised crime is moving into this country in a big way and Kulunk is the godfather in this country."

ITV take lottery win from gamblers

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ITV takes on the lottery with new £1m gameshow

Carol Midgley reports from Montreux

ITV is to make British television history by launching the first gameshow with a prize of £1 million. It was announced yesterday at the Montreux Golden Rose festival.

Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? will rival the BBC's *National Lottery Show* and transform gameshows from the days when contestants were content to win a cuddly toy and a pop-up toaster.

Contestants will face 21 multiple choice general knowledge questions in a format similar to the 1950s American show *Twenty-One*, which inspired the Hollywood film *Quiz Show*. Prizemoney accumulates with each correct answer, with a potential total prize of £1 million.

ITV insisted yesterday that the programme would be "upmarket" and was not designed to induce audience hysteria. Currently the biggest television prize is £100,000, which can be won on the *National Lottery Big Ticket Show* on Saturday nights.

Before 1990 the maximum prize allowed to be offered to a contestant on British tele-

vision was £5,000. But this restriction was lifted by the 1990 Broadcasting Act, which said prizes could be limitless.

David Liddiment, ITV's director of programmes, said: "Everybody has thought about becoming a millionaire at some stage in their lives. There is something purer and more specific about winning £1 million, rather than a house or a car or something. It will be very exciting and create tension, because the stakes are so high."

The quiz will have one person at a time answering and, if they get a question wrong, they are knocked out and a new contestant takes over. They can "retire" when they reach a level of, for example, £200,000, to ensure they keep their winnings. Each series will have only one £1 million winner.

Before the *National Big Ticket Show*, the biggest prize offered in this country was £20,000 on *Lucky Numbers*, on ITV. When the *\$64,000 Question* — originally shown in America in the 1950s — was introduced in Britain in 1990 by ITV, the prizemoney of

£6,400 was then the highest on offer.

Teachers recently criticised shows such as *Raise The Roof*, hosted by Bob Monkhouse, in which the top prizes were £100,000 houses, for setting a bad example to children.

Campaigners say it was better in the days when contestants were thrilled to take home a food mixer or a *Blankety Blank* chequebook and pen. *The Generation Game*, hosted by Bruce Forsyth on BBC1, offered a series of small prizes on a conveyor belt, which contestants had to remember to win.

Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? may be screened as early as the autumn. It is being made by Celador Productions, but a presenter has yet to be signed. Likely candidates include Michael Barrymore, Jonathan Ross and Carol Vorderman.



Patricia Burke, the first winner of *Double Your Money*, took home £1,000

Chaucer hit the jackpot for first £1,000 winner

By Peter Foster

ITV is hoping its £1 million jackpot will revive the golden days of the quiz show in the 1950s, when the prizes were outlandish, the questions fiendish and contestants became overnight celebrities.

Some 50 million Americans watched perspiring contestants struggling to answer the \$64,000 question — worth £338,000 at today's prices.

At the same time Hughie Green was offering a £1,000 prize on his show, *Double Your Money* — a enormous jackpot in postwar Britain and some £15,000 at today's prices. The first winner attracted attention from all quarters and was pictured clutching her cheque in the broadsheet press.

Patricia Burke, a 21-year-old graduate of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, was shut into a soundproof box at Granada Theatre in South London and given two minutes to answer questions on Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, including the name of the inn

from which the pilgrims set out (Tabard Inn) and the number in the party (31).

After the show she revealed that she had spent sleepless nights swotting up on Shakespeare and had ignored friends' advice to take the £512 she had already accrued in the previous rounds.

In America the chase for ratings generated by such huge prizes tempted some producers to massage the drama. Common tricks included turning off the studio air-conditioning to make contestants sweat and asking easy questions to more popular contestants.

Twenty-One, a gameshow with a similar cumulative double-or-quits format to *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?*, was exposed as a fraud when one of the contestants, Herbert Stempel, was ordered to flunk a question because his ratings potential was deemed to have "plateaued". The incident inspired *Quiz Show*, the 1995 film starring Ralph Fiennes.

LWT adds to satires on Labour

LABOUR is preparing itself for an onslaught from comedy writers and satirists after television executives indicated that the Government's honeymoon period is over.

LWT announced yesterday that it was to run a sitcom based on three fictitious Labour MPs that would expose hypocrisy in Downing Street. News of its screening this autumn comes after the BBC announced a new satire featuring Harry Enfield apparently based on Peter Mandelson.

The LWT MPs will share a flat in London. One will be a moderniser who swallows everything his leader says, another a Clare Short character who is increasingly disillusioned by her party's politics, played by Pauline Quirke, and the third a hard left Michael Foot-type, for which LWT is understood to be approaching Peter O'Toole.

The series has been written by Simon Hoggart, the columnist and broadcaster, and Nigel Smith.

All over for World Cup team quiz

PLANS for a television quiz show in which the England and Germany soccer squads were to compete have collapsed after the German FA expressed reservations over rekindling the rivalry of 1966.

Both teams had agreed to take part in the LWT show *Best Of Enemies*, which was intended as a curtain-raiser for the World Cup in France. Glen Hoddle, the England manager, was to have taken part and Jürgen Klinsmann was lined up for the German team.



Klinsmann: lined up for German quiz team

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How Mary Bell sent a shock through Britain

IT WAS 1968. Students were rioting in Paris. The Krays were the most notorious gangsters in England and a little girl named Mary Bell sent a frisson of fear through the nation.

She was 11 when she stood trial at Newcastle upon Tyne Assizes, accused of killing two small boys "solely for the pleasure and excitement afforded by the killing".

The nine-day hearing in Court No 2 was one of the most sensational trials of the century, but, though few would forget the shock of seeing the features of the dark-haired girl, or her name, the details of her crime have faded from memory. Unlike the trial of the two boys convicted of murdering James Bulger, the case of Mary Bell was treated with restraint by the national media and BBC Television banned any mention of the subject on its 6pm news bulletin.

Bell and her next-door neighbour, Norma Bell, 13, who was not a relative, were accused of having murdered Martin Brown, 4 and Brian Howe, 3, on May 25 and July 31 respectively. The first death was initially treated as an

Richard Ford on why child killer remains such a notorious figure

accident, until the second body was discovered.

Martin's mother is now June Richardson, a grandmother of five, living in Gateshead. Four days after Martin was found dead, Mary Bell had gone to Mrs Richardson's home and told her that she wished to see Martin in his coffin. When Brian was buried, she stood in front of his home laughing and rubbing her hands as the coffin was



Bell: she was sentenced to life for manslaughter

carried out.

Both boys had been strangled and dumped on waste ground near where the killer lived in a prewar council house in the Scotswood area of Newcastle. Her family had been rehoused there from the even tougher Rye Hill district of the city.

Her mother, Betty, who died in 1995, was mentally unstable, often walked out on the family and was a prostitute specialising in sado-masochism. Mary's adoptive father, Billy Bell, is still alive, as are her brothers and sisters, though she has no contact with them.

She was caught after police spotted inconsistencies in a questionnaire that she, along with 1,200 children in the area, answered about their whereabouts at the time of the killing of Brian Howe.

At the end of the trial, Mary Bell was convicted of manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility. Norma Bell was acquitted. Now 43, Norma Bell lives in

Co Durham, stunned by all but one of her five sisters and five brothers. Her marriage has broken down and her husband, a lorry driver, has custody of their children.

Mary Bell was sentenced to life imprisonment. She went to a series of remand centres until, at the age of 16, she transferred into the prison system. In 1980, at the age of 22, she was prepared for release from Askham Grange in Yorkshire.

Her life, under a new identity in the North East, has not been uneventful. In May 1984 she gave birth to a daughter, and two months later the High Court issued a court order banning the media from revealing her new identity, the identity of the child or its father.

Mrs Richardson says she is "absolutely disgusted that a child killer should make money from a book. All profits from this book should go to charities or come back to the Government, because it was the Government's money that paid to keep her in prison and is now paying for her anonymity."

Libby Purves, page 18



June Richardson, Martin Brown's mother, is disgusted that Bell should have made money from the book

Law does not cover crimes from past

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

JACK STRAW, the Home Secretary, will need to bring in a new law if convicted criminals are to be prevented from receiving payments for writing about their crimes.

The Home Office confirmed yesterday that the present law was narrowly defined and that its scope was likely to be examined. A spokesman said that it

was never intended to apply to such circumstances as the controversy surrounding payment by Gitta Sereny, the author, to Mary Bell for her help with a forthcoming book.

Criminals often write about their offences. Recent examples are Howard Marks, the drugs dealer, and Nick Leeson, the futures trader. The law has been powerless to stop them: under the Proceeds of Crime Act 1995, a confiscation order can be applied for from the

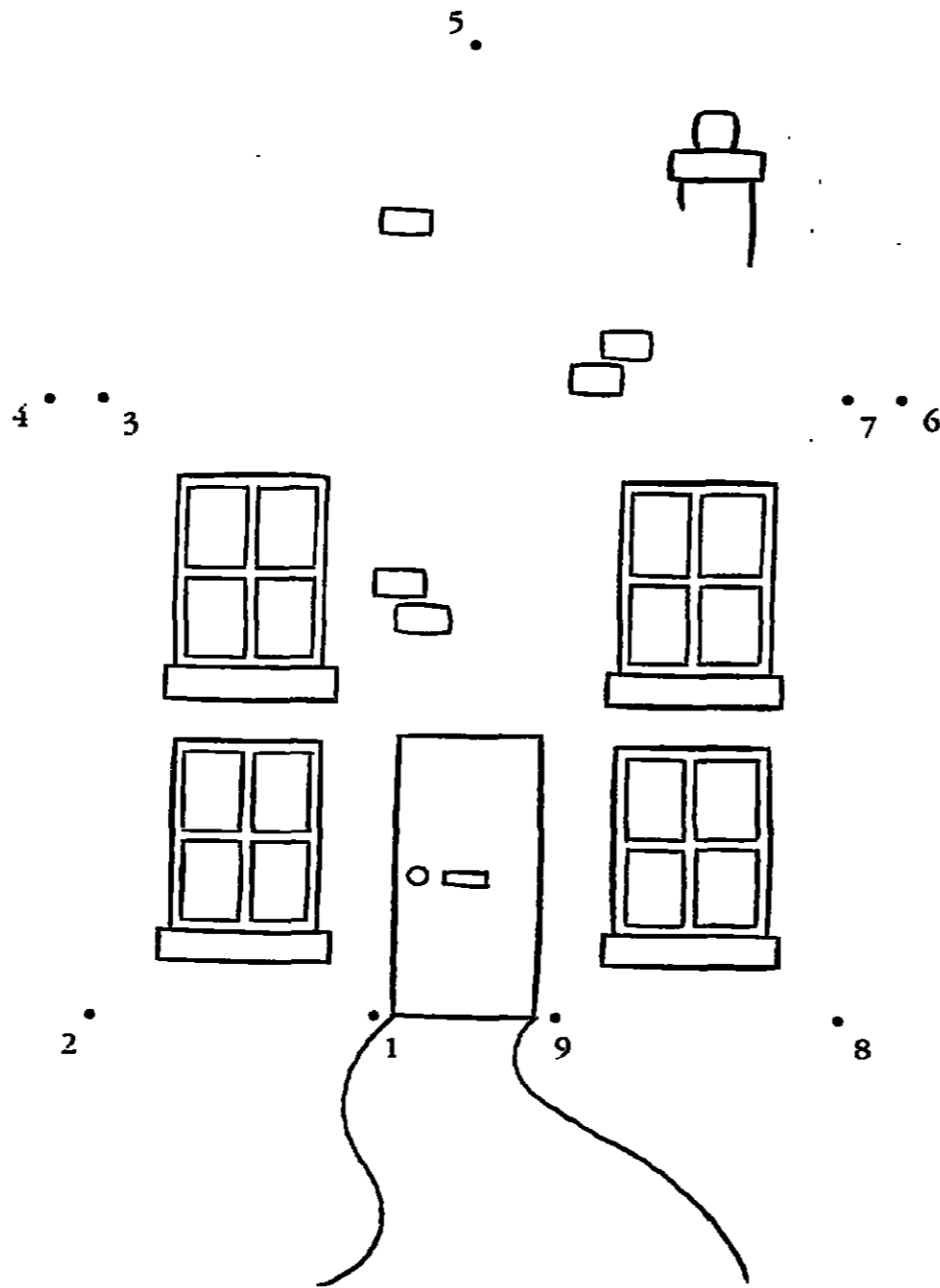
courts, but that must be done within six years of the crime. The law is aimed at perpetrators of organised crime.

The Press Complaints Commission code bans payment for stories, pictures or information to people engaged in crime or their associates. There is a defence which allows payment in the public interest. It seems likely that as no money passed from *The Times* to Mary Bell, the PCC would consider that there was no case.

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Village shops may be classed as charities

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

VILLAGE shops may be able to apply for charitable status under new rules being drawn up by the Charity Commission.

In its first review of what constitutes a charity since it was set up in 1960, the commission yesterday said it was considering conferring charitable status on organisations "helping rural communities to improve retail and other services".

Although the commission has previously barred village stores from charitable status, on the grounds that a private benefit would accrue to the shops owners or operators, it now says there may be a case for reconsidering this rule.

In a consultation document published yesterday, the commission said that it was now prepared to take a much more "holistic" approach to the subject of village stores. The key criteria in deciding whether a store could be classified as a charity would be whether its primary aim was to provide "purposes beneficial to the community".

It said: "If the scheme

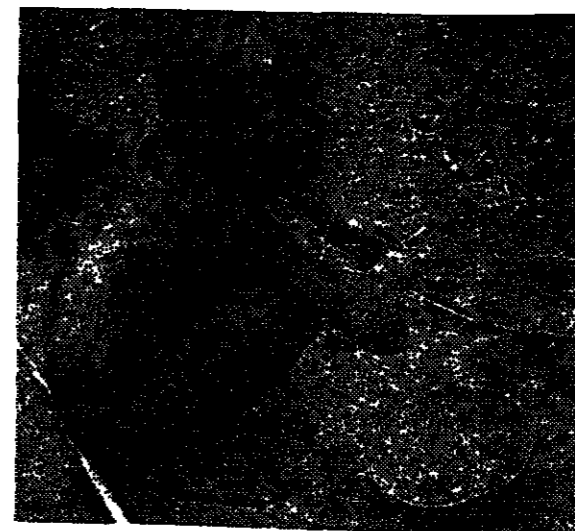
overall is demonstrably for the benefit of the public in the area ... then benefits to businesses may be incidental. Any purpose promoted would have to be clearly and securely focused on community benefits."

Richard Fries, director of the Charity Commission, said that it wanted to ensure that its official register of charities kept step with changes in social circumstances and that it took account of "the views of ordinary people on what is of benefit to them today and into the millennium".

The consultation document was welcomed yesterday by Virsa, the Village Retail Services Association, a charity dedicated to keeping village stores open. Many stores are run by community groups and staffed by volunteers. Virsa estimates that as many as 3,500 village stores may be in trouble, largely due to competition from supermarkets.

□ Promotion of Urban and Rural Regeneration (Charity Commission, St Albans House, 57/60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX)

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Cross-party group demands easier access to abortion

A CAMPAIGN to make abortion more easily available was launched yesterday with cross-party backing from MPs and peers.

Supporters of the Voice for Choice campaign, which has been timed to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the legalisation of abortion in Britain, are calling for fewer restrictions on women. They want provision of abortion on demand during the first three months of pregnancy, and an end to the rule that requires two doctors to give their permission before an abortion can be carried out.

An all-party parliamentary group, chaired by the Labour peer Baroness Gould of Potternewton, has been set up to support the campaign. Members will press for the 1967 Abortion Act to be extended to Northern Ireland and for new legislation requiring anti-abortion doctors to register their views publicly.

Lady Gould said yesterday that the 1967 Abortion Act gave doctors too much freedom to impose "moral rather than medical judgments" on women. "It subjects women to undue stress and confusion at what is already a very difficult and distressing period of their lives."

The Tory MP Teresa Gorman said: "The ball is firmly in the court of the Labour women who have been

Polly Newton on the start of a bitterly opposed campaign to change the law

elected in such large numbers. If they were willing to use their "tremendous power" to secure changes in abortion law they would be supported by "a number of us old soldiers in the Tory Party" who shared their objective.

Anti-abortion activists, led by the Tory MP Ann Widdecombe, pre-empted the launch of Voice for Choice with a press conference at Westminster yesterday at which they



Gould: abortion rules cause undue stress

highlighted studies suggesting that abortions endanger women's health.

Jack Scarisbrick, chairman of the anti-abortion group Life, said that there was growing evidence that abortions increased the risk of breast cancer. "Abortion not only kills a real, living human being every time, it also does damage, often devastating damage, to the physical and mental health of the woman involved and can even harm subsequent children."

It was therefore impossible, he said, for any doctor to sanction an abortion on the ground that pregnancy posed more of a threat to the health of the mother.

Miss Widdecombe said that since the general election Labour's large majority had created a danger that the Government would try to liberalise abortion law. "Voice for Choice wants abortion on demand without reference to doctors in the first three months. It wants to extend the 1967 Act to Northern Ireland, where all the political parties are opposed to it, and it wants to set up a register of doctors with a conscientious objection to abortion. We would object to all those initiatives."

She said a register of those with conscientious objections would become a blacklist of doctors who would be harassed because of their views.



Ken Livingstone: poll indicates that 55 per cent of Londoners would vote for him

Labour worried by poll boost for Livingstone

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

LABOUR'S hopes of excluding Ken Livingstone from the London mayoral election were hit yesterday when a poll suggested that he is overwhelmingly the people's choice.

Ministers became increasingly concerned that Mr Livingstone will become a rallying point for protest against the Government in the light of evidence that voters think it would be wrong to keep him off the list of potential Labour candidates for the post.

Although ministers tried to play down the poll, which put Mr Livingstone way ahead of all the other Labour names that have been suggested, there was obvious alarm that the public does not apparently share their distaste for his sustained attacks on successive Labour leaderships.

Tony Blair is facing a dilemma. If he allows Mr Livingstone to go on the short-list from which a "primary" of party members will choose the candidate, there is a risk that he will be selected and go on to become mayor. But if he excludes him, Mr Blair will upset party and public opinion. And he could do nothing to prevent Mr Livingstone resigning from the party and standing as an independent Labour candi-

date. At best that would split the Labour vote; at worst Mr Livingstone could still win.

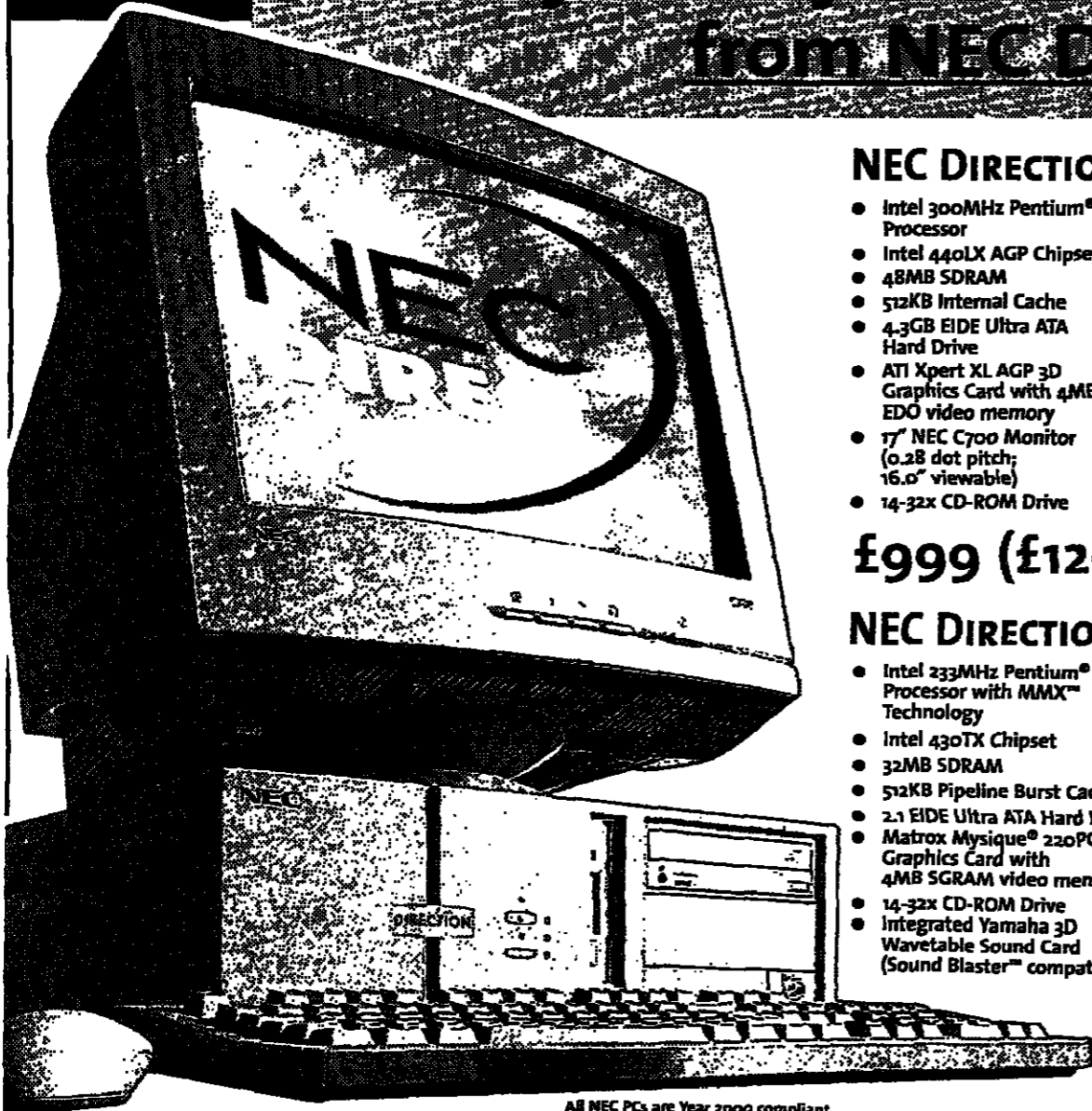
In the NOP survey of 1,000 Londoners for the *Eveing Standard*, 55 per cent said that they were prepared to vote for Mr Livingstone if he was the Labour candidate. Only 27 per cent said they would definitely not vote for him. Forty-seven per cent said they would be willing to vote for Glenda Jackson, 34 per cent for Chris Smith and Tony Banks, and 30 per cent for Frank Dobson.

For the Tories the top contender was Chris Patten. Forty-nine per cent said they would vote for him if he ran. Thirty-four per cent said they would be willing to vote for Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, and 20 per cent for the former Transport Minister Steve Norris. Richard Branson is ahead of all the political candidates, even though he has given no indication that he may stand. Two thirds of those polled said they would be willing to vote for him.

The poll must be treated with some caution. As the best known of all the Labour candidates Mr Livingstone benefits from a "visibility" factor. But Labour cannot be sure that that would not also secure his election, first in the party primary then in the full election.

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Political diversity belies 'babes' label

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

ONE of the silliest political slogans of the past year has been to describe the record phalanx of female Labour MPs elected a year ago as "Blair's Babes". Not only were there nearly three times as many new male Labour MPs, never called "Blair's Boys", but the women MPs are far more diverse than such a patronising label implies. They range from 58-year-old Ann Cryer, the widow and mother of Labour MPs, to 25-year-old Claire Ward. The more intriguing question about Labour MPs of both sexes is whether they are really Blairites.

It is fashionable to sneer at many of these new MPs as automatons under the control of Millbank Tower. Some are clearly out of their depth and can be embarrassingly gauche when on their feet on the floor of the Commons. But that is true of some MPs whenever a party wins a landslide. Nor is the 1997 intake, the largest since 1945, homogeneous in its views. Bob Marshall-Andrews is carving out a media niche as a thorn in the Government's side, and those with long memories will recall that John McDonnell ended up as a left-wing critic of Ken Livingstone at the Greater London Council.

New evidence has just appeared that the 1997 intake is definitely more Blairite than existing Labour MPs. Earlier this month, Pippa Norris of Harvard delivered a paper to the annual conference of the Political Studies Association at Keele University examining the attitudes of MPs. This is based on surveys covering more than two fifths of all members. They were asked about their views on distribution of wealth, trade unions, private enterprise, state ownership, health and defence spending, equal opportunities and moral issues.

The principle of state ownership of major public services was endorsed by 70 per cent of those interviewed in 1992, but this had fallen to 48 per cent after the 1997 election. Labour MPs have also become less hostile towards private enterprise as the best way to solve Britain's economic problems. The proportion of Labour MPs who believe that it is the Government's responsibility to provide jobs has fallen from two thirds to one half.

Taking all the questions, the survey suggests that the sympathies of Labour MPs remained broadly on the Left, but the 1992-97 period saw a significant shift towards embracing the market economy.

There was also a move from social liberalism to a more populist stance on moral issues.

Ms Norris concludes that, "contrary to the sceptical view, the party did move towards the centre ground from 1992 until 1997, particularly on many of the traditional touchstones of socialist faith. The changes in official Labour Party policy seem to reflect the attitudes and values of Labour MPs."

This party reflects a generational shift as new members have replaced older ones who have retired. That happened on an unprecedented scale last year since more than two fifths of all Labour MPs were newly elected and they were on average nine years younger

than their existing colleagues.

Moreover, there was also a slight movement towards the centre among older Labour MPs on both economic and moral issues, though the new Labour members were further along the spectrum. However, both old and new are still a very long way from the views of Conservative MPs, and remain a little way from those of Liberal Democrats who had shifted a little to the left. She therefore cautions that the shift within the whole parliamentary party can best be described as "a gradual change of emphasis, not an ideological conversion on the road to Number 10". So while there are signs of a convergence on the middle ground by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, the Blairite conversion of the parliamentary party still has some way to go.

PETER RIDDELL

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IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: health questions; Finance Bill, committee; short debate on operation of Section 100 of the Town and Country Planning Act. In the Lords: European Communities (Amendment) Bill, committee; debate on herbs affected by tuberculosis.

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Woman says she was raped twice by policeman

By PAUL WILKINSON

A YOUNG woman told a jury yesterday that she was raped twice within minutes by a policeman who allegedly lured several victims back to his home for sex.

The garage receptionist, who was 18 at the time, described how she went to PC John Blott's house after agreeing to go for a drink with him. Once inside, he tried to kiss her and then pulled her to the floor, where he raped her, she told Leeds Crown Court.

Almost sobbing, she said: "I felt pretty numb. I asked him to stop and asked him what he was doing. He told me to shut up because I'd like it. He was pulling me about all over and was very rough. He said I would like it, because that was what they normally did."

PC Blott, 33, has denied two charges of rape and four of indecent assault between 1993 and 1995. The prosecution says that PC Blott, who is suspended from the Cleveland force, used his position as a police officer to gain the confidence of women and lure them to his house. He is said to have attacked them and then driven them home as if nothing had happened.

The receptionist, now 21, said that, after the first alleged attack, in 1995, she sat on the sofa, but PC Blott raped her again. Afterwards he told her: "Right, let's get you home, you'd better go," and drove her home in silence.

She said that she had agreed to go for a drink with him after he had rung the garage several times. After visiting the pub, she expected he would drive her home, but instead he took her to his house.

Cross-examined by Anne Rafferty, QC, she denied saying that she wanted to have sex with him. Miss Rafferty said: "There was vigorous, enthusiastic sex, wasn't there?" She replied, close to tears, "No."

In police interviews after his arrest, PC Blott said he regarded rape as the most abhorrent crime after murder. Told of the women's allegations, he said: "I am sorry they feel like that. Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned."

The trial continues.

Solicitor stole from client to fund sex change

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A SOLICITOR stole thousands of pounds to pay for a sex-change operation and used the identities of dead children to launder the money.

Gregory Challenor, 34, used the names of at least five infants to set up bogus bank accounts, stole the life savings of a client aged 75 and collected about £250,000 by making false claims to the Legal Aid Board. He was in control of 73 bank and building society accounts.

Yesterday Challenor was starting a two-year prison sentence after admitting 13 charges of forgery, theft and false accounting. He asked for 41 similar offences to be considered, involving £340,121, when he appeared at Winchester Crown Court.

He was arrested in the City of London carrying £30,000, women's clothing, a wig and a pair of false breasts.

The court heard that Challenor had applied for copies of birth certificates of people who would have been roughly the same age as him and then applied for driving licences. Once he had both documents, he was able to open at least eight bank accounts.

When police raided his home in Chichester, West Sussex, they seized a number of birth certificates, driving licences and bank details.

It was later revealed that Challenor had been so desperate to pay for the operation that he had written to a film director offering to appear in a pornographic film.

Michael Forster, for the prosecution, told the court that Challenor had worked for a firm of solicitors before setting up his own practice. He used the names of clients and former clients to make up legal actions and then filled in false legal aid forms.

Paul Rowlands, for the defence, told the court that his client, who suffered from a depressive illness, was genuinely full of remorse and shame for what had happened. He had lost his career and all the hard work that got



Stolen identity: Stephen Jones died in 1969 aged two

him into law. His appearance in court was punishment in itself.

Judge Martin Tucker, QC, said that, despite what he called Challenor's "sad ill health", he believed that the accused would understand that, if a solicitor was dishonest and breached the trust of clients, he would face jail.

After the case, Detective Constable Nigel Davies, the investigating officer, said Challenor had appalled William Colbourn, a former soldier who lost his £28,000 life savings. Mr Colbourn died two days before the case came to court. Detective Constable Davies said: "It is a pity he did not live to see justice done."

Mr Forster told the court that Mr Colbourn had instructed Challenor in relation to divorce and injunction proceedings and a neighbour dispute. He paid Challenor £5,000 in October 1994 and a further £32,000 over the next six months. Challenor put the money into a Yorkshire Building Society account in his own name instead of a company client account.

He also paid a further £3,000 cheque from Mr Colbourn directly into his Lloyds Bank account. The theft charges related to his withdrawal of money from these accounts.

Mr Forster said that in 1996, Challenor had persuaded Mr Colbourn to move out of his home in Portsmouth and into a hotel for four months so that evidence could

be gathered for the action in his neighbour dispute. Challenor then used the address to set up a number of building society accounts, using gas and electricity bills as proof of identity.

Glyn and Jean Jones, the parents of one of the children whose identity was taken by Challenor, expressed their disgust yesterday at the way he had abused the memory of their son, Stephen, a cerebral palsy sufferer who died aged two in 1969.

Mrs Jones, 53, a university technician from Brighton, said: "I feel as though I have had something stolen from me. It is hard to believe that somebody could do something like this."



Gregory Challenor: solicitor used names of dead children to launder money

Rulings by Court of Appeal put on Internet

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE public was given instant access to Court of Appeal rulings via the Internet yesterday. New judgments will be added immediately to more than 20,000 from the past two years.

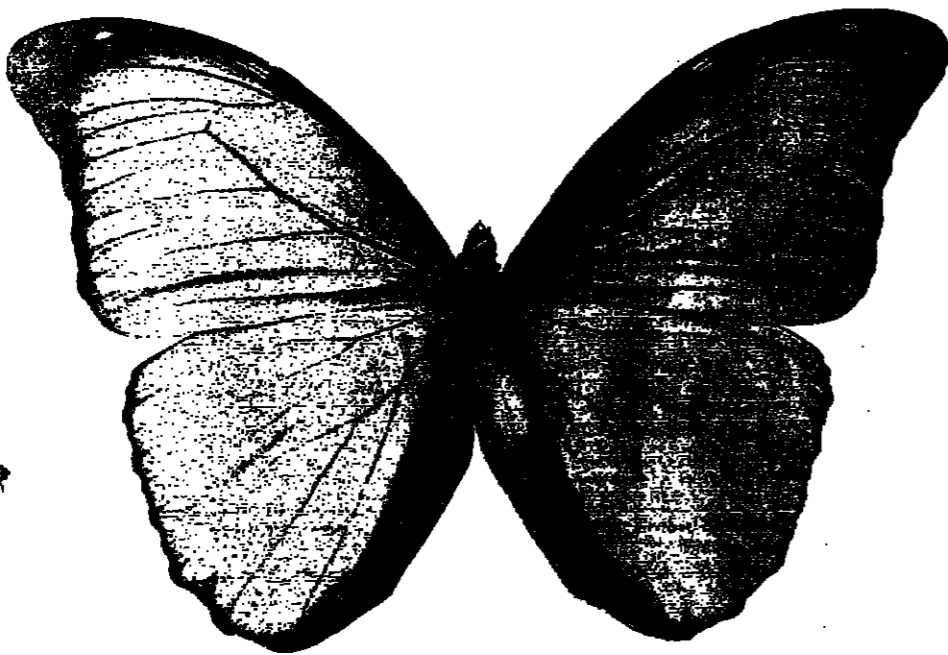
Until now, seeking copies of judgments has involved weeks of waiting and considerable expense. The new idea has been launched by Smith Bernal International, the official reporters to the Court of Appeal, as the basis for a full legal "shopping mall" on the Net, where a range of court rulings may be placed and where there are links to other legal Websites.

Graham Smith, chairman and chief executive, said: "There is a groundswell of support in the legal industry to see information coming out of the courts and government, to be made available to the public."

The firm has already developed the LiveNote instant transcript system now in use at the BSE inquiry. It provides an immediate transcript of court proceedings for £50 a day plus the cost of the telephone connection.

Smith Bernal has also started a legal resources database, tailored to the specific needs of the legal profession, which costs £5,000 a year, with instant updates and detailed cross-matching. The public Casebase site is at <http://www.smithbernal.com>

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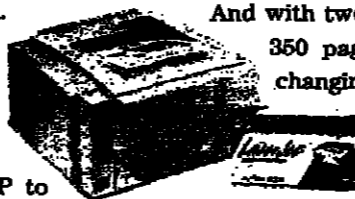
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HEWLETT-PACKARD

The Millennium Dome is Blairism writ large. Today Times writers enter more zones to examine the state we're in

Peter and Gordon top the charts as third term beckons

Dream, imagine and return refreshed — after realising its dream of office. Labour is already engaged in planning for the next Parliament and beyond. But for some the dreaming will never stop.

The year is 2006. Gordon Brown, the Prime Minister, pats Peter Mandelson, the Chancellor, on the back as he sits down after delivering a pre-election Budget that had Labour MPs cheering him to the rafters. Paddy Ashdown, the Foreign Secretary, beams.

After maintaining the clamp-down on public spending imposed by his predecessor Mr Brown, Mr Mandelson has at last released the brakes, earmarking billions of euros (Britain joined the single currency three years ago) for health and education, roads and an expensive refurbishment of the Millennium

Dome. He loved that last twist. The astonishing success of the Dome has turned Mr Mandelson from a backroom fixer into a substantial national figure.

Michael Portillo, the Leader of the Opposition, faces one of the toughest tasks of his career as he prepares to make his first Budget response. Scribbling beside him is his Shadow Chancellor, William Hague, the man who for the previous eight years has performed the ritual that has now fallen to Mr Portillo. Within weeks they will be on the hustings as Mr Brown seeks his first and what would be for Labour an unprecedented third successive poll victory. Tony Blair, who stood down a year before and watched his old friend romp to the leadership, sits smiling on the back benches. The Project is in good hands...

Dream on? Maybe. But in the



By Philip Webster

minds of those at the top of our main political parties, the scenario above is not so outlandish.

Labour has so much legislation to get through in the next three years that the outlines of its second term are already emerging. In virtually every speech Mr Brown emphasises that a decision about entering the single currency will be taken early in the next Parliament. The 2001-02 election could easily

turn on Britain and the euro, because, on present form, Mr Hague will be campaigning to stay out for another five years.

Constitutional revolution will not be far behind monetary union in importance. Hereditary peers will be no more, but the second stage, probably a partly elected new chamber, may have to wait. So, too, may a change in the voting system. By early in the next

Parliament we may be electing MPs by a system with an element of proportional representation. Mr Ashdown's long wait could result at last in a Cabinet job for him and one of his colleagues.

The hunger for a second and even a third term is not in dispute. But what of the personal dreams? In January Mr Mandelson was called in by Mr Brown for a heart-to-heart. The two men — once close — have not got on since Mr Mandelson opted for Mr Blair in the 1994 leadership contest.

The Prime Minister, however, has become increasingly fed up with their failure to become friends again. And he is about to put Mr Mandelson in the Cabinet, probably heading a beefed-up Cabinet Office chasing progress across Whitehall departments. They will be "President" Blair's chief executives, making good relations more

essential than ever. In recent weeks the gossip around the Westminster dinner tables is that "Peter and Gordon" have made up.

They must occasionally think about what happens when Mr Blair goes. They doubt whether he would want to serve for a third term. The possibility of him standing down late in the next Parliament cannot be discounted.

Many believe there is an unspoken understanding between the two that, when Mr Blair goes, he will do so at a time that best suits Mr Brown's chances of succeeding him. Mr Brown will need Mr Mandelson to organise the Blairites behind his already large band of supporters. But Mr Mandelson will need Mr Brown just as much. His career could only prosper with Mr Brown's help. His

grandfather Herbert Morrison made it to Foreign Secretary: the Treasury would be one better.

Across the chamber, Mr Hague is set for the long haul. But the Tory party is notoriously less kind to its leaders than Labour. Mr Hague's dream must be that, while Mr Blair is apparently walking on water today, the time will come when he will start sinking. His nightmare is that, if he fails badly, the knives will be out. Mr Portillo will by then have returned, possibly at a by-election late in this Parliament. His ambitions are as strong as ever.

Back to 2006: Mr Brown looks up at the gallery and gives a wave to his wife, Sarah, and their two children, Charles Whelan, his balding press secretary, prepares to brief. Tomorrow Mr Brown will call the election. Dream on...

Leading article, page 19

Togetherhness is the new test of faith



By Anthony Howard

"Experience a moment of peace and reflection" — but has Britain become spiritually richer under Labour?

Ever since he was elected his party's leader almost four years ago, Tony Blair has consistently bid for the moral high ground. His first year as Prime Minister has in no way lowered his sights in that respect, even if his tendency to raise his eyes to the hills has led to the odd run-in with organised religion.

It is no secret that the realisation at Lambeth that he was prepared personally to interfere with the appointment of bishops — even sending back the Crown Appointments Commission's original two nominations for the see of Liverpool — was received with something less than rapture. And in Church House last week, they were incandescent with rage over what was taken to be a deliberate government leak over the Lord Chancellor's plans to reduce the number (presently 26) of episcopal representatives to make way for other religious leaders sitting in the House of Lords. This was recognised by the C of E's own "civil service", probably rightly, as a crude effort to bully it into surrender by pitting the Anglican Church against the ecumenical spirit of the times.

It is, of course, the fact that the Prime Minister himself is so obviously of an all-embracing spiritual disposition that makes him so difficult to cope with so far as the Established Church is concerned. Whether he is popping over to Westminster Cathedral incognito and alone for an evening Mass or studiously ignoring and sidelining the special Anglican committee set up to supervise the C of E's contribution to the Dome, Mr Blair has proved himself a new and elusive quantity. It is not that he is (like, say, Lord Melbourne) a latitudinarian — indeed, almost exactly the reverse: it is the strength and depth of his convictions that makes him a problem for the Church.

Sometimes, admittedly, the Prime Minister's capacity for an almost instinctive empathy has worked in its favour. When Diana, Princess of Wales, was killed last summer, he did not merely save the day for the Crown, but for the Church as well. Without his intervention — characterising the divorced wife of the heir to the Throne as "the People's Princess" — it is doubtful if the great

surge of emotion which, rightly or wrongly, is looked back upon as having been, at least in part, a spiritual manifestation, would ever have taken place.

It may be that, since that day, Christian leaders in this country have rather allowed the experience to go to their heads. Once again the old, familiar refrain is heard that, even if there is no absolute sign of a revival in religion, at least there is ample evidence of a revival of an interest in religion — and all sorts of straws-in-the-wind are cited, such as the fall in the number of psychological stress cases referred to doctors and hospitals as a result of the experience that the nation went through as a community that first week in September.

And "community" is, of course, the new, approved buzz word — a term which, with a long pedigree reaching back to an obscure Edinburgh theologian who had a great influence on Blair as an undergraduate, is probably as near as any other concept to providing whatever ideological muscle there is at the heart of new Labour.

But if, under Tony Blair, Labour is no longer a doctrinal party, then perhaps neither, at least in the old sense, is Christianity a dogmatic religion. The years of studied tolerance of other faiths have taken their toll, and what we have today is not so much belief as benevolence. No one wants anyone else damned and everyone is quite ready to see Heaven crammed.

Such an attitude certainly suits the delicate nature of our contemporary social fabric. How, for example, can even a bishop — in a multi-faith city such as Bradford — promulgate his own convictions by proudly asserting "Firmly I believe and truly / God is three and God is one"?

The answer, of course, is that he can't without appearing to be exclusive — the one deadly sin in Blair's Britain. When, in the future, historians try to sum up the curious mood of pre-millennium Britain, they could do worse than to recall that, even in that shrine of kings — Westminster Abbey — the question most often asked over the past few months has been: "Where is Elton John's piano?"

It may not be a particular source of pride to Mr Blair, but that aptly reflects the spirit of an essentially unbelieving but still credulous age.



Guiding light: Tony Blair has kept his sights on the moral high ground

Spin-doctors in danger of overdosing



By Matthew Parris

"Learn better ways of talking to each other" — but have Labour's spin-doctors killed off the art of political dialogue?

A Prime Minister's press secretary describes his job. It makes chilling reading: ministers are not to make statements in the Commons without submitting a full text to him 48 hours in advance; they must not broadcast, speak or write articles without his say-so; they must sing, he has told them, from the same hymn-sheet and "as they didn't always always know the words, it was better they kept quiet".

Requests to appear on *Any Questions*, *Question Time* — or any other media debate — must be routed through him: he was minded to veto them. And when a gagged senior minister threatens to complain to Downing Street, "I told him that, should he do so, I would instruct the policeman at the front door not to let him in, which wouldn't look good if, coincidentally, that happened to be a press photographer waiting outside". To put it brutally — and Joe Haines, writing in the *Daily Mail* about his long stint as Harold Wilson's press secretary, does put it brutally — it's not always good to talk.

The art of political spin was not born on May 1, 1997: message-projection have been around since at least the days of the unscrupulous old self-publicist who got her own head put on the coinage, Good Queen Bess (nice tag, Burghley: put it about). Benjamin Disraeli was a more skilful publicist than Tony Blair and his tediously unoriginal PR boffins will ever be. In a 1950s remark, the more cruel because it contained a truth, Evelyn Waugh described Churchill as "simply a radio personality who outlived his time". Harold Macmillan ("Supermac" — "you've never had it so good") was showman extraordinaire; subtract the show from Harold Wilson and the residue is pitiful.

As a team-effort I would rate Margaret Thatcher, Gordon Reecce, Tim Bell, Ronnie Millar and Bernard Ingham among the most successful political acts ever — the more so because Thatcher was hard to market. Blair is as easy to sell as coffee apples.

Campbell, Mandelson & co have, however, achieved one huge communications and marketing success: they have marketed their own services superbly. Everyone is talking about spin. The press talks about little else. When we are not

talking about spin, we are talking about Cool Britannia. When we are not talking about the Dome, such discourse centres upon image and the projection of image. Everyone talks about talking.

Yet if you seek one area in which Labour have stumbled badly throughout their first year in office, I would offer communications. The Bernie Ecclestone affair, Lord Simon's shares, Geoffrey Robinson's tax, Robin Cook's romance, Lord Irving's wallpaper... all damaged not by their substance, but through impressions of arrogance, hubris or secretiveness, needlessly given.

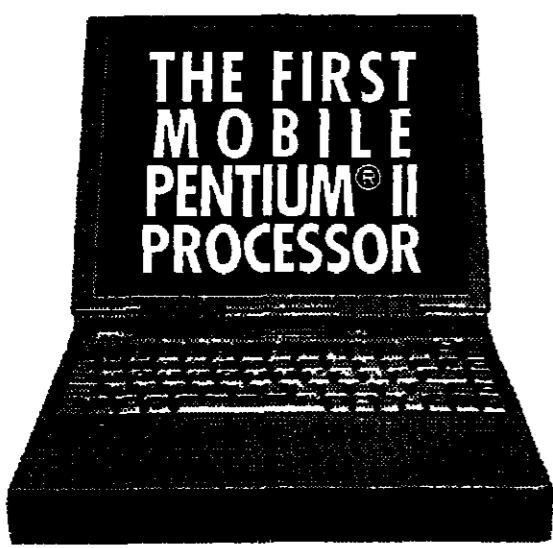
The shipment of Georgian nuclear waste to Douneay could have been handled so much better. And Mr Blair's difficulties with his own backbenches are in large measure due to his evident disregard of a leader's primary task of communication with his own troops.

Wherever else it's good for Tony to talk, it is not, it seems, at Westminster. The place languishes. Debate is at an all-time low. The demands of image-manipulation, pushed to absurd lengths with novice backbenchers, have created a Stepford image which is now more of a threat to Mr Blair's public profile than a little cheerfully tolerated unruliness among his boys and babes would ever have been. The gravest charge against those who spin the new Labour yarn is that they are making their leader *unlikeable*.

But we mob them, and I suspect there's a simple reason for their fame. When the news is bad you shoot the messenger, but the converse can also be true: the news seems good — new Labour, no danger — so we lionise the messengers. They are marginal to Mr Blair's success.

Joe Haines insists that spin is not new, but hints at one difference from his own day: he kept his own head below the parapet. Today the spinners have grown so confident that they have become public figures in their own right. This is foolish. As an immune system develops antibodies to an infection, so do human communications develop resistance to spin. Already the news media — hugely impressed by this Government — trusts not a word it says. The spinners will be mobbed while the magic lasts, but when the spell breaks, they will be lynched. They deserve neither.

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CIA's top Warsaw mole goes home half a hero

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

ONE of the West's top Cold War agents in Eastern Europe, sentenced to death by a Communist court, returned to Poland yesterday, hailed as a hero by some and a traitor by others.

Colonel Ryszard Kuklinski, a former member of the Warsaw Pact planning staff, supplied more than 35,000 secret documents to the CIA over 11 years as a mole in the Polish capital.

His final tip-off before defecting was in the winter of 1981, when he warned America of General Wojciech Jaruzelski's plans to impose martial law. He fled with his family to America a week before the army took over and crushed Solidarity.

"Kuklinski was one of the most important CIA sources of information about the Soviet military during the Cold War," according to Robert Gates, the former CIA director. His reports gave the CIA access to the inner leadership circle of the Warsaw Pact.

They included intelligence



Kuklinski: supplied up to 35,000 documents

about the development of new Soviet weapons, the position and internal lay-out of underground bunkers used by Soviet generals, strategic and operational plans for attacking Western Europe and intimate details about the relationship between Soviet commanders and their East European allies.

In 1980 the spy warned the Americans about Soviet plans to intervene in Poland; the US used the information to put pressure on Moscow, and Solidarity survived for a few

more months. After his defection, a military court sentenced him to death. But even after Communist rule crumbled, there was fierce disagreement in Poland over whether to rescind the sentence. The death sentence was quashed only in 1995 and it was not until last autumn that he could be sure of returning to Poland without being arrested.

Colonel Kuklinski, now 67, will be feted by the Polish Government. He has been personally invited by Bronislaw Geremek, the Foreign Minister, who is a former Solidarity dissident, and will be touring six cities. He is to be made an honorary citizen of Cracow and of Gdansk, where he will also be given back a yacht which was confiscated when he defected.

Colonel Kuklinski will, however, be heavily guarded; he is expecting criticism and even, perhaps, violent protests at his presence. Former Communists are outraged that he should be treated as a patriot rather than as a traitor.

General Jaruzelski, the architect of martial law, is particularly furious. He and

other former generals from that era believe that rehabilitating the spy is tantamount to saying that the General Staff were the real traitors.

General Jaruzelski always argued that he fended off a Soviet invasion by launching his military takeover. His memoirs present him as a tortured but honest patriot.

Colonel Kuklinski, in a best-selling book entitled with deliberate irony *Poland's First Nato Soldier*, argues that the Warsaw Pact's military edge over Nato's conventional forces in Europe made inevitable a Western nuclear strike against the East, and in particular Poland. It was, therefore, his duty as a Pole to inform the Americans about the Warsaw Pact's military strength.

The argument was also offered to the Supreme Court, which eventually accepted that spies are not necessarily traitors. The colonel's case has been backed by Professor Zbigniew Brzezinski, Jimmy Carter's National Security Adviser, who still wields considerable influence in Poland, and by the Roman Catholic hierarchy.



An amateur video of Thupten Ngodup's self-immolation in Delhi yesterday

Tibet exile sets light to himself in protest

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN DELHI

A TIBETAN exile set himself alight in central Delhi yesterday in protest at the break-up of a hunger strike by police. Doctors do not expect him to live.

The incident happened as police moved into a tent occupied by three hunger strikers and forcibly took them to hospital, almost seven weeks after they began consuming only water flavoured with lime juice. The protesters were demanding United Nations intervention to free Tibet from Chinese control.

The police were pushing through supporters of the hunger strikers when they saw a man running towards them with his clothes on fire. Onlookers pounced on him and put the flames out with blankets. Doctors said the man, Thupten Ngodup, 50, had burns over all his body.

Six hunger strikers began their protest on March 10, but police took three of them to hospital early on Sunday after doctors said they would die.



Raznatovic and his bride, a folk singer. His presence in Macedonia's capital has alarmed local politicians

War crimes suspect 'builds businesses to beat sanctions'

THE Serb war crimes suspect, Zeljko Raznatovic, known as Arkan, has resumed dubious business dealings in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia after a three-year absence.

Western diplomats believe Arkan, who is wanted by several governments, has close links with the security apparatus controlled by President Milosevic of Yugoslavia, and his activity is linked to the threat of new sanctions against Belgrade.

His arrival in Macedonia has been greeted with alarm by local politicians. "When Arkan went to Croatia there was a war, then Bosnia and now Kosovo and maybe Macedonia," said Arben Drashi, an opposition leader.

Sources in the UN peace-keeping force in Skopje, the Macedonian capital, say Arkan has invested in a shopping mall, the Beverly Hills. Serb-owned cafes and enterprises were centres of "business" — or sanctions-busting — during UN curbs between 1992 and 1995.

Macedonia, with its long border with Yugoslavia, produced vast profits for Arkan and Serb organisations, mostly from diesel smuggling.

Arkan's profits have been invested in property in Belgrade, and he lives in luxury in the diplomatic suburb of Dedinj. Young Belgrade toughs in the Beverly Hills cafes were unwilling to talk, but a janitor told me that since Christmas the arrival of "bosses" from Belgrade in the early hours was common.

With exchanges of suitcases in cars.

Yugoslavia has a free market zone with Macedonia, and the Skopje Government has little power to control business dealings. An official said there was no evidence of criminal activity and Serb international brands, duty and

Western diplomats say Arkan has made vast profits from smuggling, writes James Pettifer

investors in Skopje included joint ventures with major foreign companies, such as Mercedes-Benz.

Opposition politicians allege there is a more sinister side to Serb activities. They say this is shown by the death of Dragi Georgievski, 32, a Macedonian, in recent fighting in Kosovo. He was a member of the Macedonian military police reserve, an organisation that opposition leaders believe has been infiltrated by Serb extremists.

□ Mosque project: Reconstruction work on the 16th-century Ferhadija mosque, blown up during the Bosnian war, could begin this summer in Banja Luka, the capital of Serb territory that was known as "the heart of darkness" for its "cleansing" of Muslims (Tom Walker writes).

The mosque was among the most famous Islamic buildings in the Balkans, and Carlos Westendorp, the international community's High Representative, believes it should be rebuilt to encourage ethnic reconciliation in Bosnia.

During the four-year conflict, more than 1,000 mosques were destroyed, and not one remains on Serb territory. Señor Westendorp has written to the Republika Srpska authorities demanding they grant planning permission for a new Ferhadija. So far there has been little public opposition to the project.

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near time up in an... stir up a diplomatic dispute between London and Tehran. Iran was angered last week by British claims that it had

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, likely a scanning artifact or page number.

Image of Riviera killer brings Italian police closer to their quarry



The photofit of the murder suspect

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE net drew tighter around the serial Riviera killer yesterday as Italian newspapers published a photofit image of the suspect. Several witnesses, including a Bordighera taxi driver, came forward to say they had seen the presumed murderer at close quarters on the night of the last killing ten days ago.

Eight women have been killed in or near the palm-fringed resorts of the Italian Riviera. All were made to kneel before being shot in the head with a .38 calibre revolver. Six

were East European or African prostitutes who were killed at isolated spots in the hinterland behind the resorts. The last two victims, however, who were not prostitutes, were Italian women and were shot in the toilets of trains on the line between Genoa and the Franco-Italian border at Ventimiglia.

Italy had been braced for another killing last weekend, a holiday marking the nation's liberation at the end of the Second World War. The killer had previously struck over holiday weekends, including Easter. But police advised travellers not to use the railway along the

Ligurian coast unless absolutely necessary and *La Repubblica* commented yesterday that the only passengers on the railway during the holiday had been police and journalists, all looking for the murderer.

The emerging picture of the presumed killer suggests he is a local man, tall, about 50, with grey hair. Police believe he may be from Savona, not far from Genoa. One of the killings — of a Ukrainian prostitute — did not at first appear to fit the pattern, because it did not take place on a public holiday. Police later realised, however, that it had occurred during the feast day

of the patron saint of Savona, a local holiday.

A taxi driver yesterday said he had picked up a passenger resembling the presumed killer at Bordighera railway station, the last stop before Ventimiglia, on the night of the latest murder. Maria Angela Rubino, an attractive 32-year-old cleaner, was found dead in the lavatory on Easter Eve when the taxi driver was driving. She had then changed his mind and asked to be taken only as far as San Remo, where he was dropped at the casino.

Police said the man had smoked a cigarette in the back of the taxi

platform, and when challenged had replied in a strong local accent. The taxi driver said that when he saw the photofit he recognised his passenger from Bordighera: "We get some odd customers at night, but this one stood out." He said the man appeared very agitated, and had at first asked to be taken back down the coast to Savona, withdrawing money from a cash dispenser to pay for the journey. He had then changed his mind and asked to be taken only as far as San Remo, where he was dropped at the casino.

Police said the man had smoked a cigarette in the back of the taxi

and they were examining the stub to see if it contained DNA that might match the male bodily fluid which was found in the lavatory on the train.

They were also examining the cash dispenser records to trace the money withdrawal. Police said they were investigating the deaths of two nightwatchmen killed last month when they challenged a man who was menacing a transvestite prostitute at Novi Ligure. Officials said the description given by the transvestite matched the photofit, and the weapon used in the Novi Ligure double murder appeared to be the same as in the other eight killings.

Spanish mine waste warning 'was ignored'

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

SPANISH authorities were yesterday being blamed for the wave of toxic sludge from a mine reservoir that is threatening marine and bird life in Europe's biggest natural park, the Coto de Doñana in south-west Spain.

Environmentalists said authorities had been warned several times of the dangerous state of the reservoir dam, but all had considered the mine and its reservoir, owned by the Canadian Boliden group, to be safe. In 1996 both the government of the southern region of Andalusia and a local court at Sanlúcar de Barrameda rejected complaints from a former mine manager that the reservoir was a danger to Europe's most important area of wetlands.

Manuel Aguilar Campos, a former mine manager, had said that the retaining walls of the reservoir near the town of Aznalcollar, were ready to burst.

Boliden blamed the spillage of the five million cubic metres of highly acidic, sulphurous waste on an underground earth movement. It said it would meet any legal obligations resulting from the spillage.

Dozens of dumper trucks were at the mine yesterday, transporting rubble to fill the ISOft breach that opened in the

dam on Saturday. The mine and its reservoir, which tower above the River Guadamar on the outskirts of Aznalcollar, will remain closed for at least six months. Spanish officials said yesterday, however, that mine engineers were continuing to pump waste into the river so that they could repair the reservoir wall.

Yesterday the toxic waste appeared to have been diverted away from the most delicate wetland zones of the Doñana National Park. Officials said it should make its way into the sea over the next few days. But a former senior park official said that heavy rainfall could still flood the park with sludge deposited farther up the blackened, foul-smelling river.

"We may still see a disaster," said Javier Castroviejo, a former park official who now heads the Friends of the Coto de Doñana group. Scientists declared that the heavy metals contained in the waste water, including zinc and lead, had already started to make their way into the food chain.

Dead carp lay on the thick black sludge that extends for up to half a mile on either bank of the River Guadamar. Groups of storks could yesterday be seen wading into the toxic mud to eat the poisoned

fish. In some areas park officers used gunshots to scare the birds away.

Scientists said that a multitude of crabs and small crustaceans would also have been killed by the toxic waste and that these would be eaten by some of the quarter of a million birds now nesting in Doñana.

"Our worry is that birds will now come to eat the dead creatures and that they, in turn, will start to die in large numbers," said Juan Carlos del Olmo of the World Wide Fund for Nature.

Shrimp and eel fishermen in the tourist town of Sanlúcar de Barrameda, at the mouth of the River Guadalquivir, said the diverted toxic waste would inevitably leave them without a livelihood.

"They care more about ducks than they do about people," one complained.

A Spanish farmers' group yesterday put damage to crops resulting from the spill at a preliminary 1.5 billion pesetas (£6 million).

Merano, Italy: Prosecutors yesterday impounded part of an electronics factory in northeastern Italy after it accidentally released a toxic gas that can cause respiratory problems. (AP)

Photograph, page 26



Tomato crops die in the toxic sludge polluting the area around the River Guadamar

Iraq's jail purge dispenses death and dungeons

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQ has transferred 3,800 detainees to underground dungeons near Baghdad and has executed more political prisoners in recent weeks, an Iraqi opposition group said yesterday.

The Iraqi Communist Party also said Iraq would attempt to divert attention from its appalling human rights record by releasing many non-political prisoners to mark President Saddam Hussein's 61st birthday today.

Saddam, apparently brimming with confidence after the recent stand-off with America over weapons inspections, has ordered street carnivals to be held across the country to reflect what one state-controlled newspaper said was the love and appreciation of the people for their symbolic leader.

Murals and portraits of Saddam will be unveiled. Earlier this month a United Nations human rights report said 1,500 people were believed to have been executed in Iraq last year under a brutal "prison cleansing campaign" organised by Saddam's younger son, Qusay. Relatives of the executed prisoners were ordered to pay for the bullets used before the bodies, some bearing signs of torture, could be recovered for burial. Most had been shot, electrocuted or hanged.

There was no independent confirmation of the latest claims, but the outlawed Communist Party is one of Iraq's oldest and most reliable opposition groups with good contacts in Baghdad. "The report is entirely plausible," said an Arab diplomat in Jordan. The detainees, many of whom were in "a very bad state", were moved in February to underground dungeons in the notorious Abu Ghraib prison west of the Iraqi capital, the group said.

The Iraqi Communist Party quoted Iraq's Labour Minister, Abdel Hamid Aziz Mohamed Salah Sabagh, as telling a Baghdad newspaper last month that "the number of prisoners is five times more than the actual capacity of prisons". This was Iraq's first public admission of prison overcrowding, it said.

According to a report this month by Max van der Stoep, a former Dutch Foreign Minister who serves as the UN's human rights expert for Iraq: "The people of Iraq have continued to suffer in the grip of one of the most ruthless dictatorships the world has seen since the end of the Second World War."

The UN Security Council agreed yesterday to prolong the oil embargo on Iraq in a move that could provoke a new confrontation with Baghdad and undermine the recent deal on access to Saddam's presidential palaces (James Bone writes).

The 15-nation council agreed Baghdad had failed to come clean on its banned chemical and biological weaponry and ballistic missiles, though progress was reported on the nuclear file.

Trade body rejects US move to save turtles

THE World Trade Organisation (WTO) has overturned an American ban on shrimp caught in nets that endanger turtles, so threatening moves to protect endangered animals and plants across the globe (Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent, writes).

The decision makes it illegal for the United States to uphold its two-year ban on imports of shrimp caught by Indian, Pakistani, Malaysian and Thai fleets. The

ruling has angered environmentalists who see making trade more responsible as the key to improving the fortunes of threatened habitats and species.

Tony Juniper, campaigns director of Friends of the Earth, said yesterday: "The WTO has sent the signal that free trade firmly rules over the environment. It sets a dangerous precedent, limiting the ability of sovereign nations to protect the planet." Duncan Brack, a senior research

fellows in trade and the environment at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London, said if Britain tried to protect mahogany by banning wood from poorly managed, unsustainable forests, it would now face similar action.

He added that next month's WTO ministerial meeting in Geneva was an opportunity for Tony Blair, on behalf of the European Union, to express disappointment at the stance.

Iranian moderate mocks old spy story

BY MICHAEL THEODOULOU

A BRITON detained in Iran on spying charges has been released and is no longer in the Islamic Republic, Iran's Foreign Minister, Kamal Kharrazi, said yesterday.

The news must have surprised the headline Iranian newspaper which reported on Sunday that a "leading MI6 spy" was being held and yesterday urged the Government to punish him.

Mr Kharrazi, a prominent moderate, appeared keen to play down the incident which, according to other Iranian Foreign Ministry sources, took place several months ago. "This affair concerns the past — this individual has been released and is already in Britain," he said. "He was arrested when, having travelled to Kurdistan as a reporter, he was taking films in an area which was off-limits to the public."

The daily *Jomhuri Islami* newspaper named the man as Robert Gavin and said he first claimed to work for the BBC before confessing to spying for Britain. But the British Embassy in Tehran, the Iranian Foreign Ministry and the BBC all said the name meant nothing to them.

There was speculation that *Jomhuri Islami*, close to headline opponents of the moderate President Khatami, had dug up an old incident to stir up a diplomatic dispute between London and Tehran. Iran was angered last week by British claims that it had attempted to buy British

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New York Mafia suffers decline in family values

THE Mafia in New York — rudderless, leaderless and racked by internecine war — is in its death throes, according to federal agents and local police officials.

Compelling proof that the Mob is on its way to extinction was received yesterday when *The New York Times* reported that the "commission", the notorious tribunal that functioned for more than 60 years as a kind of executive board of Godfathers for New York's Mob families, is now defunct. Once it met weekly, but now it has not gathered for almost three years, mainly because of a leadership collapse brought on by indictments, imprisonment, old age and the labours of an army of informers.

Founded in 1931 by Charles "Lucky" Luciano, the legendary head of the Genovese clan, the commission was a cross between a "supreme court" and a "security council". Its *raison d'être* was to prevent fratricidal war between the five New York families.

In the decades when New York was a place of rich pickings, prosperity ensured peace. The police were in the

Once 3,000-strong, membership of the city's 'five families' has slumped to 800, Tunku Varadarajan writes

Mafia's pay, local political chieftains were pliant, the labour unions were cash cows, and the competition from outsiders — such as the Colombian drug cartels that were later to outpace the Mafia at its own criminal game — was practically non-existent.

All that has changed. Whereas membership of the five families ran to more than 3,000 only 30 years ago, it is now barely 800. Yet the crisis at "troop level", however grave, is dwarfed by the almost total absence of a coherent leadership structure.

The generals are either behind bars or too old to tell their crack from their Chianti, and the families are in the hands of feckless "Generation Xers" who are unschooled in the ways of Cosa Nostra.

Lewis Schirilo, head of the FBI office in New York, said: "We are reasonably confident that the commission is not functioning... The families are in transition, trying to figure out how to redirect their criminal activities in a new environment."

Recent arrests have hit the Mafia's morale — and body politic — a series of crippling blows. John Gotti, boss of the Gambino clan, is in jail for life, convicted of murder and racketeering. His son, John Gotti Jr. — who was appointed acting boss by his father six years ago — is awaiting trial for racketeering, fraud and extortion. Last year Vincent "Chin" Gigante, head of the Genoveses, was imprisoned for life.

Experts have linked the near-death of the Mafia to its "Americanisation" over the years. Writing recently, Peter Reuter, a professor in the



Charles "Lucky" Luciano, former head of the Genovese clan and a chief architect of the US Mafia in the 1930s



Gigante: Genovese clan boss is serving life



Gotti: jailed for murder and racketeering

Department of Criminology at the University of Maryland, explained this as "the demise of old values of loyalty" to the Mafia family and the increasing "greed and self-centredness of members". That certainly explains the death of the commission.

The malaise has been deepened by the reluctance of most Mob heads to involve their own families in "the family business". Gigante and "Big Paul" Castellano — a Gambino boss killed recently — both kept their sons away from the Mafia. In fact, in his

book on the Mob, *Underboss*, Sammy "The Bull" Gravano recounts Gigante's response to John Gotti Jr's initiation into the job. He said: "Jeez, I'm sorry to hear that."

□ Rome: Police in Naples yesterday said the use by local mafiosi of a car bomb to murder a rival gang leader was a "worrying new trend" (Richard Owen writes). Luigi Ammirato, 25 — a leading member of the Camorra, the Naples Mafia, was killed when his armoured Lancia Delta blew up in an east Naples suburb.

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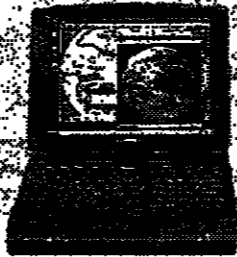
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COMPAQ

Belgian police face new disgrace

By CHARLES BREMNER

A NEW wave of indignation descended on Belgium's national police yesterday after television showed pictures of officers beating up a football fan and it emerged that the wife of Marc Dutroux, the alleged child killer, had recently been left unguarded.

Film of the brutal incident at a Sunday match between Anderlecht and Bruges added to the national fury directed at the gendarmerie for allowing Dutroux to escape custody for three hours last Thursday. The Government faces a no-confidence vote in parliament today over the episode.

Belgian cameramen filmed a gendarme captain kicking a Bruges supporter in the face and beating him with a baton as two colleagues held him down. The gendarmes, which described the incident as "completely unacceptable", suspended the captain.

The gendarmes suffered further disgrace with a report that Michelle Martin, who is charged together with Dutroux for the murder of four girls, was left alone in a lift in the Neufchâteau courthouse last month after the doors closed, leaving her guards outside.

Russian 'missile experts aid India'

Washington: American intelligence officials yesterday accused Russia of helping India to build a sea-launched ballistic missile only days after raising fears that Moscow was supporting further proliferation efforts by Iran (Tom Rhodes writes).

In charges immediately denied by Delhi, intelligence officials at the Pentagon said Russia had continued to export technology to India for at least three years despite assurances to the contrary. *The New York Times* reported their claims that components and significant engineering services from Russia had helped Indian scientists in their development of Sagarika, a ballistic missile believed to have a range of 200 miles and capable of penetration deep into Pakistan from a submarine launch.

Although not yet tested, the missile would prove a breakthrough for India in the South Asian arms race and is likely to inflame tensions in the region.

This month Pakistan tested a medium-range missile capable of striking almost anywhere in India and received a sharp warning from the United States about weapons proliferation.

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فكرنا من الأصل



Lebed: well on the way to victory

Lebed on road back to power

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

GENERAL Aleksandr Lebed, one of President Yeltsin's most outspoken opponents, is poised to re-emerge from the political wilderness and launch his own presidential campaign, after taking a strong lead in the race to be governor of the vast central Siberian region of Krasnoyarsk.

With 98 per cent of the votes counted in Sunday's poll, General Lebed, 48, had taken more than 45 per cent of the vote, against 35 per cent for the incumbent, Valeri Zubov.

While still short of the necessary overall majority to win, his lead in the poll puts him in a virtually unassailable position in the run-off vote expected in two weeks' time, when the remaining six candidates drop out of the race.

Krasnoyarsk, a region virtually the size of Western Europe, stretches from beyond the Arctic Circle almost to the border of Mongolia. If General Lebed wins, he will gain control of a mighty industrial base from which to launch his campaign for the presidency in 2000.

EU expansion threatened by Danish strike

DENMARK began grinding to a halt yesterday as half a million workers started a national strike that could paralyse the economy and throw into question the country's referendum to ratify the Treaty of Amsterdam.

The European Union is nervously watching Denmark's first big labour conflict for 13 years because a "no" to the treaty next month by the country's heavily Eurosceptic population could scupper the 1997 accord, which needs ratification by all member states.

As the stoppage by all private-sector transport and industrial workers began to bite, Danes took to bicycles and stocked up on food and petrol while SAS airlines cancelled services indefinitely. The unions, enjoying a strong hand with Denmark's booming economy and near-full employment, called the action after employers refused demands for a sixth week of paid annual leave.

The strike comes at a delicate time for the Social Democrat-led coalition of Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, the Prime Minister, as it tries to garner support for the treaty. It is empowered to order the unions back to work through act of parliament, but it is holding fire for fear of generating a backlash. Resentment towards the Government and the establishment in general led to Denmark's 1992 referendum, which rejected the Maastricht treaty. Mr Rasmussen insists he will not postpone the May 28 vote.

Maastricht was approved in 1993 after sovereignty-conscious Danes were won over with British-style opt-outs. The main parties back the Amsterdam text and want to avoid the over-confidence that sparked the "no" in 1992. They are aware that fresh Danish recalcitrance would not only delay the opening of the EU to the former Communist bloc, but could ultimately force Copenhagen out of the Union.

Mr Rasmussen, who was narrowly returned to power at the head of a minority coalition in March, said he has no idea how to react if the people reject Amsterdam. Denmark achieved everything it wanted at Amsterdam, he said. "This is the best treaty I have seen in European Union history."

Officials say its opponents are deluding themselves because there is no longer a Nordic alternative to the EU.

Chances grow of vote to reject treaty, writes

Charles Bremner in Copenhagen

now that Sweden and Finland are members, and the Union is about to be dynamised by the single currency. Like Sweden and Britain, Denmark has chosen to stay out of the euro, but ministers make no secret of their desire to take Denmark's five million citizens into the single currency.

Polls on the eve of the strike showed about half in favour of the treaty, with opposition at about 40 per cent. However, opponents of the accord, which prepares the EU for expansion and provides for a border-free continent, are promising a fierce campaign. The right-wing June Movement is appealing to a xenophobic streak with posters that proclaim: "Say Welcome to 40 million Poles".

The posters have upset left-wing "no" campaigners, whose figurehead is Holger Nielsen, leader of the People's Socialist Party. A junior member of the Rasmussen coalition, the party is itself split over Amsterdam. Taking the "no" side, Mr Nielsen rehearses British-style arguments, saying the treaty creates a "fortress Europe" and is a new attempt by Europe's political elite to force a federalist leap. As in 1992, Mr Nielsen and the other opponents are counting on Britain to intercede if Denmark forces its partners to renegotiate.

Officials say its opponents are deluding themselves because there is no longer a Nordic alternative to the EU.



Cendrine Le Chevallier, wife of the National Front mayor, casts her ballot in Toulon

Far Right heads for poll win in France

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE National Front was poised to reinforce its power base in the South of France yesterday after the wife of the extreme right-wing Mayor of Toulon handily won the first round of an election to replace him as the party's lone member of parliament.

Jean-Marie Chevallier, the National Front mayor of the Mediterranean port, was elected to the National Assembly last June but was forced to step down for exceeding campaign spending limits and banned from running in legislative elections for a year.

His wife, Cendrine Le Chevallier, a fellow member of the anti-immigrant National Front, was selected to stand in his place and on Sunday scooped up 40 per cent of the first-round vote, eight points ahead of her Socialist challenger, Odette Casanova, the combined Left's candidate.

The centre-right coalition's candidate polled a humiliating 22 per cent and was eliminated, leaving the Front and Socialist candidates in a run-off next Sunday. "Mrs Le Chevallier's great success on Sunday means we must not let down our guard," Bruno Gollnisch, secretary-general of the Front, said yesterday as he called for a "massive" Front vote next weekend.

Vienna: Austria's far-right leader, Jörg Haider, threatened to resign yesterday as head of the Freedom Party because of party infighting in Salzburg. (AFP)

Kohl belittles neo-Nazis but skinheads' ballot gains shake Germany

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, yesterday emphasised that Germany was not lurching to the Right despite the dramatic gains by neo-Nazis in elections in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt.

"There is no danger for the country as a whole, and you will see

in the general election in five months' time that these people, these right-wing extremists, will make no impact at all," Herr Kohl said at a news conference which was aimed mainly at camouflaging the depth of the defeat of his own party, the Christian Democratic Union, at the weekend.

The success of the far-right German People's Union (DVU) — which

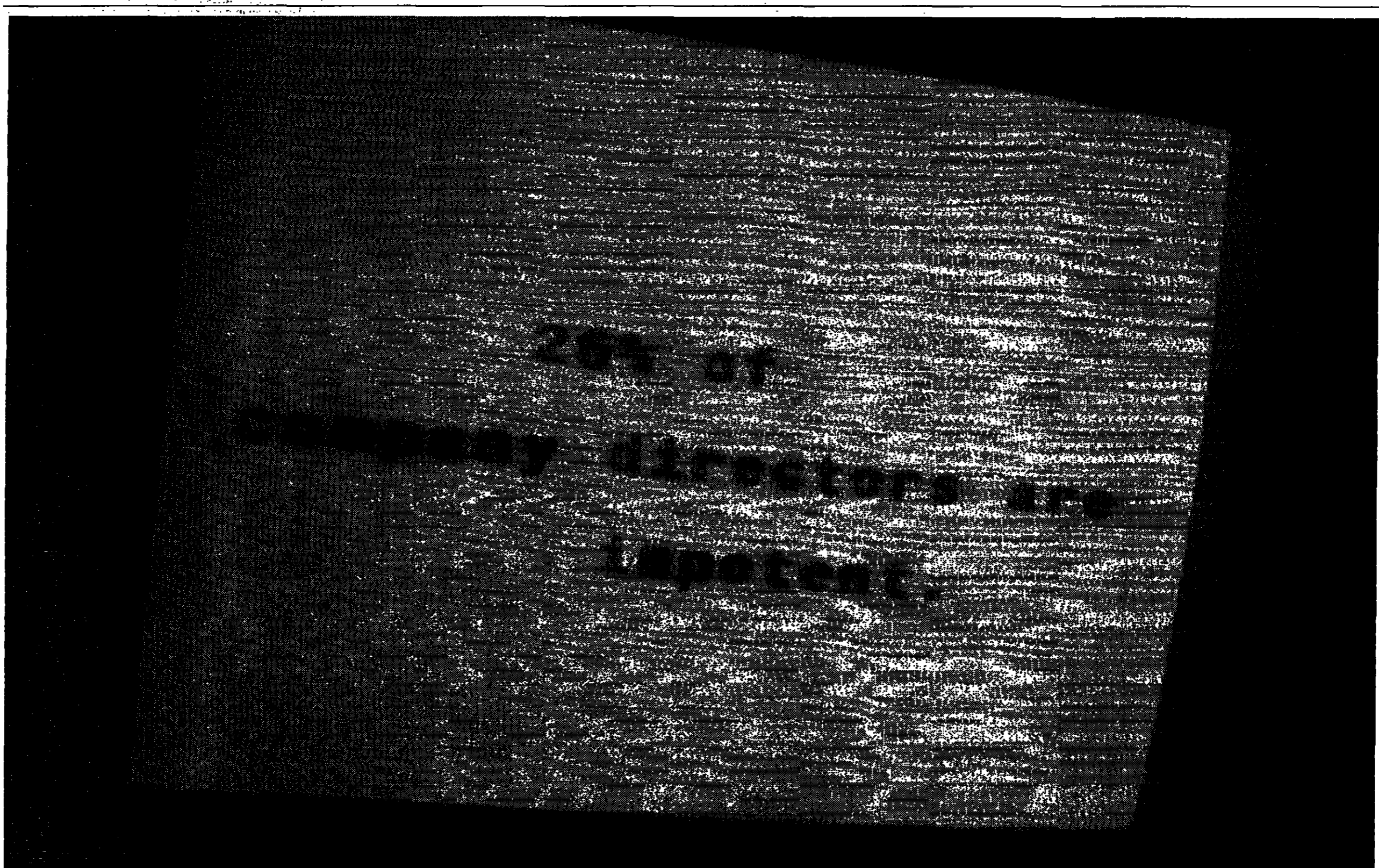
gained 14 per cent of the vote, only 8 per cent short of the Christian Democrats — has shocked Germany. Virtually invisible in Saxony-Anhalt six weeks ago, and never before represented in an east German state parliament, they have become a major force in the region through the carpet-bagging tactics of Gerhard Frey, a far-right millionaire publisher.

The DVU does not have a spokesman, has no local offices and barely has any members: there are 15,000 in the whole of Germany. An election campaign, driven by Herr Frey's money — around £1 million was ploughed into the campaign — was able to mobilise a huge chunk of the electorate on an anti-foreigner and anti-euro platform. One quarter of all first-time voters

in this impoverished corner of eastern Germany cast their ballot for the party; the skinheads of Magdeburg put aside their baseball bats for the day and came out for Herr Frey. The state's ruling Social Democrats gained about 2 per cent to reach 36 per cent of the vote, by far the biggest party. It has lost, however, almost all its potential

partners. The Greens, its erstwhile coalition partner, collapsed, falling well below the 5 per cent needed for parliamentary representation. The Free Democrats also failed. The Social Democrats will go through the motions of searching for an ally, but there is only one realistic choice: the Christian Democrats.

Leading article, page 19



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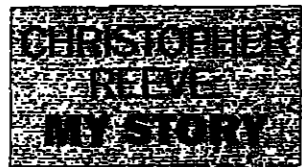
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Why I believe that one day I will walk again

The door to our bedroom slides open and my son Will comes in just as it's light enough to make out the trees above our skylight. He knows I can't speak to him because my trach has been inflated for the night, cutting off the air to my vocal cords. He waves to me, and I make a clicking sound in return as he passes by and jumps on Dana's [Reeve's wife] bed, telling her it's time to play floor hockey.



In the final extract from his autobiography the paralysed actor talks of his battle to remain positive

Soon I hear Will's play-by-play of the action as he and Dana go one-on-one with plastic golf clubs and a bottle top down the hall. It's just past dawn, too late to go back to sleep. Sometimes I try to doze, but mostly I watch the trees taking shape above me and prepare myself for the day.

At eight the nurse and aide on the morning shift come in. The nurse counts out 20 pills, which I take in one swallow of juice: some are vitamins, some help to control my spasms, the rest keep my bladder from shrinking and maintain bowel functions. I treat myself to a single cup of coffee, which I drink through a straw, and then we begin moving my body from the position I've been in all night.

My joints and muscles are frozen, and I can barely turn my head because my neck is so stiff. Usually I have a burning sensation in both legs and pain behind my left knee where the blood clots were. I sleep with splints on both feet to prevent foot drop — if the tendons and ligaments atrophy, it will never be possible to stand or walk. There are splints on my arms, too, which keep my fingers in a natural position; otherwise they would clench into fists and never straighten out.

Once everything is removed I am rolled on to my back. But my body rebels no matter how gently they move me: my arms and legs flail wildly, and my chest tightens, making it difficult to breathe. The nurse turns on the oxygen at the bedside. Because my muscles are still strong, it often takes the full weight of the nurse and the aide to control these spasms and force my body to lie still.

Will comes in, climbs over the side rail and gives me a kiss. I tell him my plan for the day: maybe when I've finished my work I'll

put on your underpants it's a difficult lesson in patience and acceptance. The process of getting up can take up to three hours.

I try to finish the workday by 5.30 so I can spend time with Will and Dana. We eat dinner at about 6.30, then, if it's not too cold, Will and I race around the drive. My wheelchair is no match for his bike, even if he gives me a head start. But I love the fact that he enjoys beating his dad, just like any other kid.

Aside from opening doors for me and sometimes moving furniture out of my way, he doesn't cater to my disability, which I deeply appreciate. In winter we watch the New York Rangers on TV, and we go to several games a season.

I generally go to bed at 9.30, which is against my nature. The process takes nearly two hours. A nurse and an aide share the workload. First they take the legs and the left arm off the wheelchair. Then the aide grips the canvas lifting pad that remains underneath me at all times. The nurse gets a grip under my knees. They lift together and set me down gently (most of the time) on my bed. Coordination between them is crucial. Having been dropped once, I am always slightly anxious.

Next comes undressing. Often I listen to music or watch TV so I don't have to think about being taken care of like a baby. Once my clothes are off, I'm given another sponge bath, and every other day the nurses wash my hair. Once a week I'm transferred on to a special plastic chair and treated to a proper shower. That takes a lot of time, and the transfer from the bed to the shower chair is dangerous.

Once I'm in bed, the aide ranges me again. After 12 to 14 hours of immobility in the chair, this is one of the highlights of my day. This is immediately followed by one of the low points: the bowel programme. I often joke that it's one of my favourite shows, right after *NYPD Blue* and *Law and Order*. I'm turned on my side, and the aide pushes on my stomach with his fist in order to force stool down through the intestines and out on to plastic sheets underneath me. Part of the rehab process is

training the bowels to release stool on a schedule. It takes nearly a month for this conditioning and there are many accidents along the way. The nurses and aides are always very professional, but we all recognise what a personal invasion this is, what an indignity. Sometimes it can take an hour.

When the whole regimen is over, Dana joins me in the narrow bed and we spend time together until we say goodnight and she has to move to her own bed beside me, because there isn't room for both of us in mine. By now it's nearly midnight. I take my "sleepers" — I hate having to take drugs at bedtime but without them my body would spasm. Within a half hour I'm dreaming, whole again and off on some adventure.

My first step into raising public



Reeve with his wife, Dana, and five-year old son: "I'm jealous when someone else plays hockey with Will"

awareness and money for research had been asking Paul Newman to host the American Paralysis Association (APA) dinner. The event brought in close to £1 million; previous benefits had raised only about \$300,000. I gave a speech that night. When I had the audience's attention, I began by saying "I want to tell you about the wall of my room at Kessler. A fascinating subject, don't you think?" (It could feel them wondering where this was leading). "But on it there was a poster, a picture of the space shuttle blasting off at night, signed and sent to me by all the NASA astronauts currently in training. Written across the top was 'We found anything is possible'."

I suggested posing a similar challenge to medical science. This time the mission would be the

conquest of inner space: the brain and central nervous system. I had no doubt that an all-out attack would produce dramatic results. To create a sense of urgency and to give the quest a human face, I declared my intention to walk by my fiftieth birthday, seven years away.

The mission of the APS is to find a cure. Nothing less. One of its goals is to speed up the pace of research by convincing some of the world's leading investigators to work together.

I was told by so many "experts" — doctors, psychologists, physical therapists, other patients and friends and family members — that as time went by, not only would I become more stable physically, but I would become well adjusted psychologically. I have found the opposite to be true. The longer you

sit in a wheelchair, the more the body breaks down and the harder you have to fight against it. Psychologically, I feel I have established a workable baseline: I have my down days, but I haven't been incapacitated by them. This doesn't mean that I accept paralysis, or that I'm at peace with it. The sensory deprivation hurts the most: I haven't been able to give Will a hug since he was two years old, and now he's 5½. This is why Dana and I decided not to have another child: it would be too painful not to be able to embrace this little creature the way I did with the others. While I believe our bodies are like houses we live in while we're here on earth, that concept is more of an intellectual construct than a philosophy I can live by on a daily basis. I'm jealous when someone talks about a skiing vacation, when friends embrace each other or when Will plays hockey in the drive with someone else.

The most difficult lesson I've learnt is this: I know I have to give when sometimes I really want to take. It's part of my job as a father now not to cause Will to worry about me. If I were to give in to self-pity or express my anger in front of him, it would place an unfair burden on him. If I were to spend my time mourning the past, I couldn't be as close to Matthew and Alexandra, two teenagers who need to turn to me for advice. And what kind of life would it be for Dana if I became just a depressed hulk in a wheelchair? All of this takes effort on my part, because it's still difficult to accept the turn my life has taken, all because of one unlucky moment.

When I was in California in 1997 for the dedication of the building that will house the Reeve-Invine Research Centre, I had more tests. There was concern that a cyst could have developed on my spinal cord, or that there might be a cavity — sometimes the cord splits open long after the initial injury, further damaging the nerves. The pictures were clean, meaning that there had been no more deterioration.

This caused a lot of excitement among the doctors but I came away sobered by comments made by the chief radiologist. He showed me that the damage to my spinal cord was only 1cm wide, and said that if I had landed with my head twisted a fraction further to the left, I would have died instantly; slightly more to the right and I probably would have sustained a bruise and been on my feet within weeks. I just happened to hit the rail at an angle that turned me into a ventilator-dependent quadriplegic. The irony of it hit me very hard, although I kept my emotions to myself. I knew there was no point in dwelling on it.

Extracted from *Still Me* by Christopher Reeve, published on Thursday by Century, £16.99. Times readers can buy a copy for £14.99 by calling The Times Bookshop on 0900 134459.

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AMENDMENTS TO WILD SPIRITS SUPPLEMENT: (Page 10) Multi-Activity two-day event, Aug 8-9, organised by XS Events Ltd, at Donington Park. Spirit of Adventure, July 17-20, is in Dartmoor. Weekend May 22-25 is river kayak only.

TOMORROW: SNOWBOARDING, IN-LINE SKATING AND SKIING

Cutting the odds against cancer

THE foundation of the State of Israel 50 years ago had the unexpected effect of dispelling a well-established medical myth. For a generation or two, doctors had believed that male circumcision prevented women from contracting cancer of the cervix. They quoted the very low incidence of the disease in Palestinian Jews as evidence.

However, once the population of Israel had grown to five or six million, the number of cases of cervical cancer began to approximate those in the rest of Europe.

So if secretions from male skin were not a factor, what was? There was no doubt that the overwhelming majority of cases had a link with sexual partnership, so the search was on to find an organism that might be responsible. If there is a possible infective basis to any disease, the first task of researchers is to find the causative agent. Immediate suspects were the herpes virus, which has since been cleared, and the human papilloma, or wart, virus (HPV).

Seventy types of HPV that can give rise to human warts have been identified. Half of these may cause nothing more than the unsightly lumps on the hands, fingers and face, most commonly in primary schoolchildren.

Some 35 types of HPV can cause anogenital warts, and 16 have been shown to affect the cervix. These 16 are divided into high or low risk warts. The most common of the former are labelled HPV16 and HPV18. Although the evidence for the link between HPV and cervical cancer is irrefutable, it is probable that the wart virus does not act alone: HPV infection is found relatively often in children and adolescents who have never had sex. The importance of sex as a risk factor to cervical cancer is related to the total number of partners that either the woman or her regular partner have had. If a woman has had six or more partners, there is a 14.2 per cent increase in the likelihood of her developing the cancer. If a man has had more than 15 partners, the risk increases by seven to eight times. Even for a particularly chaste woman, the risk is increased by smoking. Cervical cancer attacks

changes are less marked, the patient is supervised very closely, and either the cervix will spontaneously recover or the process will advance to the stage when relatively simple, non-operative treatment is needed.

An even more efficient early warning system could be instituted if it were possible to test women to see whether they showed evidence of carrying DNA from one of the high-risk HPV viruses. The Digene/DNA test, which does just this, has recently received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration. Its efficiency is about 70 per cent. It is to be tested on 12,000 British women in one of the largest screening trials to be undertaken here. It will be directed

by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and sponsored by Digene, the company that manufactures the reagents.

A combined HPV/DNA test and cervical smear is expected to improve still further the accuracy of screening, which is inevitably subject to human error — important when taking a smear or reading a slide.

A recent review presented at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London has shown that, thanks to regular screening, the expected increase in the incidence of cervical cancer has not occurred and, indeed, the death rate is now falling by 7 per cent a year. If the HPV/DNA trial is successful, this improvement should be even more marked.

MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

every year and kills about 1,500 in this country.

The obvious way to defeat the disease is to diagnose it at a pre-malignant stage, which is the purpose of cervical screening. Changes that are the first sign of malignancy are looked for in the cells of the cervix: if the changes are marked, the patient can be immediately treated, without surgery, so that cancerous changes never occur. If the

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مكتبة من الأصول

What would young Mr Grace have thought?

Fifteen minutes have passed since I began looking at suits in Peter Jones, and still no one appears willing to serve me. It is not as if the men's suit department in the Chelsea store is large: it occupies an intimate, lushly carpeted corner of the first floor. Nor is there a shortage of staff: one assistant stily follows me around, straightening the hangers and smoothing the jackets I have just touched.

So I decide to serve myself. My mission is simple: I am looking for the kind of versatile, dark, semi-fashionable suit that could be worn in an office or at a wedding, for which I am prepared to pay around £500. I reach for a plain, double-breasted jacket and try it on. Too tight. I follow up with a wool, four-button, single-breasted Pierre Balmain. It feels good and at £299 I like the price. If I walk around wearing the jacket, perhaps I might be served. I drop my coat provocatively on the floor and stroll past the counter, where an assistant looks on with indifference. I pause in front of a mirror. I like the look and feel of the jacket and consider buying it. To attract attention, I rap the hanger I am holding against the mirror. Nothing happens. No one responds. All I hear is the echo of my own exasperation.

Was I wrong to expect better? Wrong to assume that the world of gentlemen's outfitters, celebrated in *Are You Being Served?*, was one of the last, unperfected areas of British life — a bastion of

Jason Cowley looks in vain for the 'Are You Being Served?' approach when buying a suit

deference, euphemism and camp suggestion? Ward is that the BBC is considering a revival of the series that made John Inman (Mr Humphrey), Frank Thornton (Captain Peacock) and Molly Sugden (Mrs Slocombe) international celebrities. From my experiences, *Are You Being Served II?* may turn out to bear about as much relevance to contemporary society as a chastity belt.

My search began at Arding & Hobbs at Clapham Junction. It is the kind of rambling, idiosyncratic store that makes even Grace Brothers appear modish. The place seems frozen in time — about 1975. I wander aimlessly for about ten minutes before boredom leads me to approach a member of the staff. The young man shows me the complete range of suits but recommends none. In the end, I ask to try on a single-breasted, wool Yves Saint Laurent suit, price £300, because it is the only label with which I am familiar.

The young man shows me to a narrow, overlit dressing room. When I emerge, wearing the suit — the trousers are far too long — he has vanished. Puzzled, I stroll self-consciously onto the shop floor and spy him in animated conversation with another assistant. He avoids my gaze, showing no desire to come over. I change my clothes and leave.

My next stop is the mock Tudor splendour of Liberty in the West End.



Modern menswear departments make Grace Brothers seem like paradise

Here, at last, I receive something resembling decent service, from an assistant who operates with the tenacity of a man chasing commission. The jackets of the suits I try are either too narrow or too short. "What you need is Boss," he says. Canily, he finds a Boss

suit, dark grey, single-breasted, that comes in at £1 under my limit. When I emerge from the changing room, he is waiting and offers to pin up the unfinished hem of my trousers. "This looks really good." He is right. It does. And yet... There are another couple of

shops I want to try," I say. He appears deflated. "Shall I reserve it for you?" he calls after me.

I walk along Oxford Street to Selfridges, where the sales assistants swagger and pose like male models, with their shaven heads and tight black clothes. I ask the least intimidating about his suits. He has white, beige, green, electric blue — anything but dark. "You're gonna struggle to find what you want here," he says. "Try him over there."

Him over there turns out to be a softly spoken Liverpoolian with a grey stubble beard, a mournful face and spectacles. "What you need is an all-rounder, sir." He chooses a suit off the peg. It is dark grey, two-button single-breasted with a vent at the rear. It is made by a company called The British Tailor, costs less than £300 and is spectacularly bland. It is not for me.

I move on. Arriving at Harrods, I ask a security guard for directions. "What do you want?" he asks. "A very expensive suit or an expensive suit?"

"Er, an expensive one, I think." "You go that way and turn right," he says, readjusting the peak of his cap.

The suit department is as impersonal as the lobby of a vast hotel. No sooner have I arrived than a young man approaches. He is alert and attentive, yet

sighs wistfully when I explain what I can afford. But sir, he seems to say, this is Harrods. We settle on a dark grey, long-fitting Cerium.

"Three button, single-breasted is very much the look of the moment," he says, adding: "Stand there." He takes three steps backwards, walks around me in a slow circle, then begins inspecting the jacket like an art critic surveying a painting.

"There are no creases, and it falls well round the back. Yes, this is it." "What about a Kenzo?" "No, Kenzo is too narrow."

As I try on more jackets, he tells me that he is Georgian and studying English literature in London. He smiles sadly as I thank him for his service, for I know that he knows I shall not be returning.

I walk up the road to Harvey Nichols, the slickest and most knowingly modern of the stores I visit. "Hey, you all right?" an assistant calls out as I walk among the foreigners clutching gold credit cards.

The range here offers nothing different, nor does the service: no one offers to measure my inside leg, troubles to introduce themselves or, in the jewelled phrase Mr Humphrey has made his own, asks on which side I dress.

I leave, reflecting on the treatment I have received in my search for a simple suit. It is not difficult to imagine what "young" Mr Grace would make of it.



Michael Shea with the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh touring Petra in Jordan in 1987

In the Palace's shadow

Prince Philip, slitty eyes and China. Michael Shea tells the real story to Noreen Taylor

Michael Shea gives the impression of finding himself rather engaging. He just can't help congratulating himself on a life of success, prosperity, personal happiness and even a little celebrity. His shoulders positively bristle with epaulettes of triumph.

Yet despite the bulging portfolio of accomplishments, Shea cannot help but acknowledge that it was his tenure as the Queen's Press Secretary that continues to define him. Diplomat, author of 22 books, business consultant, communications expert, spinning specialist — and yet the imprint of the Palace job he left in 1987, after nine years, has proved indelible.

Not that Michael minds terribly. "Being chosen was a great honour, and it was an exciting time, but it's in the past now. Another country, not a part of my life anymore."

We meet in the high-ceilinged grandeur of the Institute of Directors in Pall Mall to discuss his latest thriller, *Berlin Embassy*. His plot is based on a scenario in which millions of Russian refugees mass at the border, threatening to overflow into the West, so causing chaos and fomenting political distrust.

"I've got another one coming out in June, *The Primacy Effect*. Two books in six weeks, not bad is it? The next one is non-fiction, advice on self-projection. Did you know, you can lose a job in the time it takes to cross a room? And still people think they can rely on CVs and degrees. Somehow they've got to learn how to interpret that."

How come he is so chued up on executive make-overs? "Picked it up watching other people. It's what diplomacy is all about: glorified spinning, promoting the positive, keeping back the unpalatable."

Mention of spinning reminds him of just how long it has been around. "I recall being at a dinner party abroad when Harold Wilson was smoking a large cigar. When he caught sight of a photographer, he thrust the cigar into my hand and took a pipe out of his pocket."

Born in Carlisle, in Scotland, son of a marine engineer, educated at Gordonstoun, Shea was the first entrant from a Scottish university to be admitted into the Foreign Office's elite administrative corps in 1963.

Married for 30 years with two daughters, he met his wife, Mona, a Westminster JP, when she worked for the Norwegian foreign service. Six years ago, they bought a house in Edinburgh.

Explaining the move back to Scotland, he says: "This is Michael Shea time. I'm in control of my life. As I approach my 60th birthday I've decided this is not a rehearsal, so I don't do things I don't like. I can make the running as long as I can allocate the hours."

He was first moved to write a book by learning that Douglas Hurd, the then Foreign Secretary, had done so. "Douglas inspired me, if you like." But how did he find time to write so many? "Merely a matter of diary management. Anyway, I find writing hugely relaxing."

He's very chatty and personable, qualities that had to be jettisoned while working at the

patience: does the Queen use a heated too seat? And the fantasies. "We've heard Prince Andrew had sensitive Government papers flown to him during the Falklands."

"The tabloids weren't alone. One highly respected editor of a broadsheet telephoned on a Friday night to tell me the Queen Mother was on the point of death. He knew for certain, they were clearing the front page... no point in denying. What guidance could I offer?"

"Only that Her Majesty was up to her waist fishing in the Deel. Happened all the time, these stories. Works of fiction. We live in a media age where reputations are brutally slaughtered by a headline. Like the one alleging that Prince Philip told British students in China they'd get slitty eyes if they stayed on much longer. He was referring to



Novels: Michael Shea

staying out in the sun, to the effect the sun's brightness would have on their eyes. I was there. I actually saw him look up at the sky and screw up his eyes. Prince Philip is nothing if not race conscious, far too sophisticated and experienced a person to insult

criticisms. "Who is he to pontificate? The people's grief was shared by the Palace and the press."

"It was a situation where you had a popular beautiful young woman — whatever her hang-ups — who died in the most tragic circumstances and I don't see that as anything other than a very poignant occasion."

If Shea had been in office, does he believe he could have controlled the media's role in reporting the War of the Waleses? Could it have been conducted in a less strident key? "Absolutely not. I claim no superiority. It would have been impossible for anyone to have intervened in such a conflict and manipulated its coverage to advantage."

Although he is now outside the Palace walls, in a position from which, like the rest of us, he can only speculate, he knows enough to acknowledge that their power to intrigue has not been diminished.

© Berlin Embassy by Michael Shea (HarperCollins, £17.99)

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Israel won't say bye-bye to Bibi - yet

Netanyahu squares the parties and the people, says Tim Hames

If only one person in Israel truly enjoys this week's ceremonial events surrounding the 50th anniversary of the Jewish State, it will be Benjamin Netanyahu. The Israeli Prime Minister is firmly at the centre of domestic and international politics. Tomorrow he will be in Cairo for talks with President Mubarak. On Thursday Vice-President Albert Gore will be his guest as Israel's celebrations reach their climax. On Monday he will be in London for talks, hosted by Tony Blair, with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and Yasser Arafat.

The Israeli Prime Minister has clung to power for almost two years and now seems relatively secure. He overcame a 20-point opinion poll deficit in the immediate aftermath of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin to become the first Prime Minister in Israeli history to be directly elected by the voters rather than emerging from bargaining between Israel's numerous political parties. This means that he cannot be removed from office without forcing another election.

At the time of his victory, "Bibi" was the youngest and easily the least experienced Prime Minister in Israeli history. He had spent much of the 1980s in the United States as his country's ambassador to the United Nations. His obviously American style, and close transatlantic contacts, have always been a significant asset for him. However, it has also led to the accusation that he understands the inner workings of Congress with rather more accuracy than those of the Knesset. His largely American personal entourage has been criticised for its remoteness from Israeli political life.

Yet a brilliant media campaign brought Netanyahu to power. His destruction of Shimon Peres in the one prime ministerial debate was the turning point in the election. His coalition was essentially that of Israel's outsiders: Sephardi Jews from North Africa or other parts of the Middle East who have always felt shunned by the country's Ashkenazi (European) elite; ultra-orthodox Jews who have always objected to the secular values that have shaped the Israeli State; and Russian immigrants, some 700,000 of whom have arrived since the Soviet Union collapsed but who have found it difficult to settle in Israel.

During Netanyahu's first 18 months, his attempt to impose American presidentialism on Israeli politics had to be scaled back. His third wife, Sarah, became a source of controversy - widely portrayed as a downmarket Lady Macbeth. One Cabinet minister, Benny Begin, son of the former Prime Minister, resigned once Netanyahu opened talks with the Palestinians. The Bar-On scandal, which centred on the accusation that an Attorney-General had been appointed who would drop the proposed prosecution of a political ally, nearly led to Netanyahu's indictment and eviction. Matters hardly improved

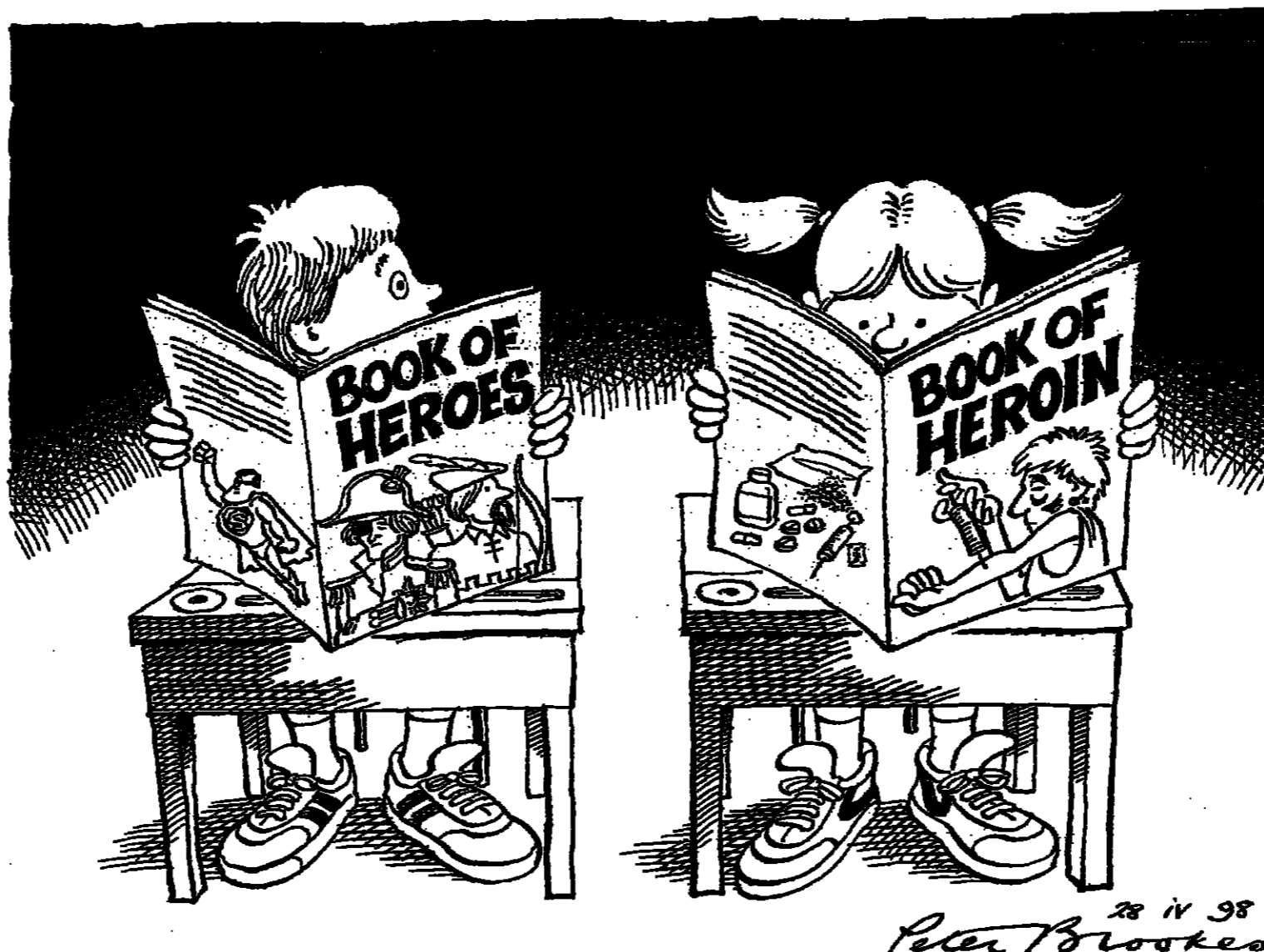
after the first anniversary of his election. His Finance Minister quit largely because he detested the Prime Minister. Rows over the budget and a proposed law to allow only orthodox rabbis formally to convert new Jews split his Government. In January of this year, his Foreign Minister, David Levy, staged an ostentatious resignation which left the Government with a 61-59 majority in the Knesset.

The Prime Minister was also faced with American pressure to offer more to the Palestinians, and the total opposition of professors and press. It is difficult to overstate the hatred that the Israeli Left has for Netanyahu. He makes Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s appear universally loved. The universities are completely hostile. Most of the media, and especially English language newspapers, are pathologically antagonistic. Coverage of John Major in Britain was complimentary by comparison. As foreign perceptions of Israel are largely shaped by these two forces, Netanyahu's image abroad has certainly suffered. Despite this, he has survived and even prospered because the factors that originally elected him still hold true. The collection of outsiders he has assembled may often disagree with each other but finds the prospect of a different government has little appeal. The Labour Party elected Ehud Barak, a charismatic former general, as their leader, but it has made little attempt to alter policy. This is rather as if the British Labour Party has elevated Tony Blair but refused to touch Blairism. The resignation of several rivals has ultimately strengthened Netanyahu's hand and left him with smaller numbers but a more cohesive Cabinet.

If he fails, it will not be the peace process, but privatisation

Most fundamentally though, the Prime Minister's position on negotiations with Israel's traditional enemies - peace but only with security - does chime with ordinary voters. Most Israelis are suspicious of Yasser Arafat and President Assad of Syria. They believe that concessions should be offered cautiously, if at all. That is why Netanyahu can, ultimately, resist Israeli intellectuals, the Clinton Administration, and international opinion with some confidence.

If anything unforeseen does bring Bibi down, it will probably be privatisation, not the peace process. Netanyahu has attempted to shake up a statist economy with free markets and privatisation. He is right that this is the only way forward for a first world country; he wants Israel to abandon the dream of Zionist socialism and become a Middle Eastern tiger economy. However, in the short term it means economic insecurity and numerous redundancies for the same working-class Israelis who usually support his stand on security questions. It would be ironic if Netanyahu discovers the only means by which his own coalition can be cracked.



Hear her, but don't pay

Mary Bell's story matters and Gitta Sereny is the right person to tell it - but money should not have been involved

There are things you don't take money for, not ever, not after any lapse of time. The inhibition against blood money goes back a long way. St Matthew tells us that when Judas Iscariot tried to give his thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests, even they could not abide its presence in the sanctuary. They bought the potter's field with it, as a graveyard: not even fit for their own people, but for unregarded strangers. All down the ages, the moral impossibility of profiting from a death that you have caused gives us chilling images: Lady Macbeth rubbing her hands, Edgar Allan Poe's murderer convinced that the police can hear the tell-tale heartbeat of his victim, Therese Raquin and her lover turning to one another in bed and finding the drowned corpse of her husband lying cold between them.

Life, of course, is not quite like this. Plenty of murderers have flourished, and died in their beds like Poirot. Others have served their sentence and then gone on the chat-show trail. But general instinct and tradition are right. It should never happen. It cries out to heaven.

A death, any death, has a moral weight which is not negotiable, and not even entirely dependent on the guilt of the killer. We should remember that the verdict on Mary Bell was of manslaughter and diminished responsibility, but that does not cheapen the significance of the children's deaths. If you accidentally ran over a careless pedestrian in your car tomorrow, and were then invited to talk usefully about the accident on a TV road safety programme, you might well do it. But you wouldn't bank the fee, would you? Oh, would you? If somebody was dead? Well, if you did, then a lot of us would shrink from you with an ancient and instinctive and entirely wholesome horror.

We broadsheets like to get very snooty about mob rage and tabloid hysteria, but sometimes the mob has the right instinct. Mary Bell, reformed or not, should never have been paid anything for her disclosures about the killing of two small boys thirty years ago. Not one penny - however much of a victim she herself was in childhood, however much help she gave to the author, whatever she says she needs the money for. There is no use saying that she has "paid her debt to society". Some debts are never paid

widely understood what actually goes on in the very few properly conducted programmes Britain actually runs. So we should know Mary Bell's story, and Gitta Sereny is an excellent person to tell us. The only shame is the payment. It is already threatening to cause bad trouble: yesterday saw at least one press argument that Ms Bell "cannot have it both ways", and that if she accepts money she should cease to benefit from her unique legal shield of anonymity. That is a terrible idea: how would it benefit anybody to have her "outed" and hounded and tormented in the style of the Yeovil or Bristol riots? It could happen very easily and very quickly in defiance of the law set down in a less volatile era. To prevent that, it would be highly prudent of her to hand over her whole fee, very quickly, to a charity named by the victim families. The matter has raised an anger which will not easily be satisfied by anything less.

Libby Purves

It seems that Mary Bell, under her new name, has grown up and made herself a decent life. She has a partner and a 14-year-old daughter of her own and is neither destitute nor dangerous. Ms Sereny says Bell "admits there are no excuses" for what she did. She has rejoined the mainstream. She is said to be an excellent mother. Speaking as a parent and a citizen, I would say that if her redemption really is so wonderfully complete I most desperately need to know how the trick was done.

I want to know how she was treated, how at 11 years old she perceived herself and her deeds, how she was brought to a proper understanding of the crime, and how she was helped to live with that terrible understanding once she grew up. There is an argument which says that only prison psychiatrists and penal professionals need to know these things, and that the rest of us are just nasty voyeurs. That is an unsafe path to take. In a democracy, the public is entitled to know about the research and experience on which treatment of criminals is based. For instance, there would be a lot less nonsense talked about therapy for sex offenders being a "soft option" if it was more

hated. To put it bluntly, if we are not prepared to kill these people then we must reclaim them.

There could be a mechanism whereby those who publish books whose main appeal is their inside view of serious crimes - violent, financial, whatever - had to set out a public interest defence before publication, and declare all money paid. Then the law could set a moderate wage for the writer where appropriate, and collar the rest of the money for criminal injuries compensation or victim support.

It would take very careful drafting, not some instant legislative crowd-pleaser. But it would signal a common belief that crime should not pay, and that any human death incurs debts which are too great for human power to cancel.

It should be allowed to happen again. The Home Secretary is said to be considering a review of the Proceeds of Crime Act of 1995 to cover books or interviews by the formerly convicted, and this could be a positive step. It is not too hard to envisage a law which would prevent affronts like this without going so far as to stop candid autobiographers like Stephen Fry from mentioning their youthful aberrations, or borrowing Christian burglars from detailing their path from darkness into light. People will always have an urge to confess and explain themselves, and the rest of us are so curious that they will always find readers; but there is no reason for making the kind of profits modern publishing provides.

No win, no fee: no free press

Alastair Brett on libel and the Lord Chancellor

"Times" has been called in the last-chance saloon for the press. Hacks are drinking up as the media faces a plethora of new laws and procedures. The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 is in place and key sections of the Defamation Act 1996 will come into force this year. But the most threatening of the new laws and procedures is not the law of privacy, which the Government has introduced on the back of the Human Rights Bill, nor the European Data Protection legislation: it is the Lord Chancellor's no-win, no-fee proposal in libel actions against the media.

Many lawyers believe that Lord Irvine of Lairg's scheme - designed to reduce the legal aid budget - will take us towards the American position where contingency fee litigation is the norm and insurance premiums have rocketed. The Lord Chancellor and his officials appear unaware of the damage that could be done to the Fourth Estate as "the eyes and ears of the people" if the no-win, no-fee proposals are extended to libel actions. The Lord Chancellor does not seem to appreciate that, with our libel laws heavily stacked in favour of the plaintiff anyway, every brass-necked liar will try to get conditional fee funding for an action against the press in the hope that he will hit the jackpot before the truth comes out.

This is because the onus of proof is reversed in libel actions: the defendant is deemed guilty until he has proven his innocence. A plaintiff has only to prove that an article is damaging (which is obvious), that the plaintiff is identifiable (usually easy even where he is not named) and that the words were published (again self-evident). The onus is on the defendant to extricate himself from the mess.

Any plaintiff intent on a bit of gold-digging who has been attacked in the media will be tempted to see if the newspaper or television channel can prove what it has written or broadcast about him. The plaintiff may know that what has been said is true, but since the newspaper or television defendant will be under such a heavy onus to prove the truth of what has been written or broadcast, many unscrupulous plaintiffs will be able to find a solicitor who, on a conditional fee basis, will issue a writ to see if the defendant can prove what has been stated.

When section 2 of the 1996 Defamation Act comes into effect this year, the media will not have much time to decide whether to say sorry quickly and let a judge award any damages that cannot be agreed, or to fight the action. The defendant is under pressure to make a quick decision under the "offer of amends" procedure because an advantage can be gained in this way only if the offer is made before a defence is served.

Libel actions are also loaded against defendants because juries usually give the benefit of any doubt to a plaintiff as against a wealthy media organisation. Juries have also enjoyed awarding large sums to those who have dared to take on a newspaper and won.

The reversal of the onus of proof makes any defended libel action immensely time-consuming and expensive. It is largely for this reason that legal aid has traditionally not been available in libel actions. It would also be unfair to expect a defendant to mount a hugely expensive defence without any prospect of recovering costs from an impetuous and unsuccessful plaintiff.

This leads to what is known as "legal aid blackmail". The defendant knows that it makes no commercial sense to fight an action which will cost more to defend than to pay up quickly. He will thus get out of the action, however undeserving the plaintiff may be. In a no-win, no-fee libel action the plaintiff will have to take out insurance to cover himself. The problem is that, unlike other actions, there is no incentive for a plaintiff to come forward with documents to prove a case. Rather, there is every incentive for the plaintiff to hide the truth, lie to his or her solicitor, get an action under way and, only if the defendant mounts a substantive defence, admit the article was right.

Cracked solicitors and plaintiffs will regard libel actions as easy meat. Defendants will have to decide quickly whether to say sorry or not. If they don't and set up a substantive defence, the action simply will not be pursued. The nightmare scenario is where a plaintiff lies to his solicitors, swears he never did something and persuades them to take action to trial where vital evidence is admitted at the last minute, enabling the media defendant to win the action. The insurance company standing behind the plaintiff will tear up the policy on the ground that the plaintiff also lied to them. That means the defendant may be whistling in the wind for costs.

The Lord Chancellor is as myopic over the impact of conditional fee funding in this area of law as he was over the cost of the wallpaper for his official residence. His proposal for libel action funding will place the press in a "no-win" situation, with the truth the ultimate loser.

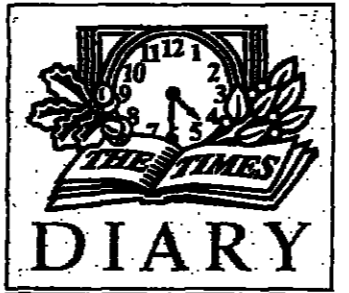
The author is Company Solicitor of Times Newspapers.

Mind the gap

THIRTY-FOUR years after making her legendary recording of Verdi's *Requiem*, Dame Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, the opera singer, has been accused of faking a notoriously difficult part. Alan Blyth, the music critic, says that, while reviewing a new CD of the oratorio, he detected an audible tape joint in one of the soprano's phrases, suggesting two separate takes were recorded and then sliced together. Schwarzkopf, now in her 80s, is beside herself with anger in Switzerland and has demanded an apology. Blyth only discovered the problem while listening to a new digitalised version of the 1963 recording conducted by Carlo Maria Giulini.



In the *andante* of the *Libera me*, seemingly contrived, he says, to make it seem as if she had sung a key phrase without taking a breath, he noticed the "ghostly tape joint". Schwarzkopf (pictured with Verdi) demanded the critic point out the exact phrase. "I am by now used to all kinds of insinuations," she says. "But the ultimate offence of depriving me of my professional honour will have to be revoked if not forgiven." Blyth was able to respond to the diva exactly: the joint responded to the diva exactly: the joint falls between 5'46" and 5'48" on track two of the second CD. "When I listened to the recording on an LP, I did not hear the joint," says Blyth. "But the new technology exposes such things. At this stage, 34 years later, it is hard to ascertain why this was done."



spectacularly. A young female reporter from the Beeb confronted my good lord about an "exclusive" that William Hague had personally appointed Steven Norris, a fellow contender, as the Tories' choice for Mayor of London. "That's ridiculous," Archer responded. He then offered the poor reporter the Opposition leader's personal phone number: "Call Mr Hague yourself and discover the truth with one call." Sadly, the reporter was too frightened to call Archer's bluff.

Black widow

JOAN COLLINS, the theatrical grand dame, is returning to the big screen. The star of *Dynasty* will lace up her corset opposite Nigel Hawthorne in *Casade*, a bawdy Restoration farce. Collins's character will not be that far removed

from her role in *The Bitch*: based upon *The Landisvine Marriage*, Garrick's 18th-century farce, she plays a poisonous widow who mocks the amorous attentions of Hawthorne's Lord Ogleby. I cannot imagine why they cast her.

● DON'T mention the war in Southport. The citizens of the Lancashire town are outraged after the local Volkswagen dealership used the War Memorial for a publicity stunt. Local war veterans were up in arms and apologies abounded: a cheque is now winging its way to the Royal British Legion.

Star turn

MINNIE DRIVER, the British actress nominated for an Oscar earlier



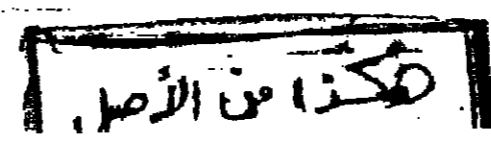
SOME might say how tight. Noel Gallagher, who has made almost £13 million with Oasis, the popular music band, has been haggling over the price of garden ornaments. The older Gallagher brother showed the thrifty side of his nature at a garden centre in Somerset with Meg Matthews, his wife (pictured together). After choosing a pair of garden urns, a font for flowers and a 5ft marble monk, the couple were given a £2,000 bill. Noel persuaded the staff to knock £150 off the total. No wonder he's considered the financial brains behind the band.

er this year, is developing all the characteristics of a major movie starlette. She complained to cabin crew on a flight from Los Angeles to New York, where she was shooting a *Cosmopolitan* front cover, after she discovered a snub while flicking through the in-flight magazine. The publication featured details of films to be shown to passengers, including *Good Will Hunting*. Driver (pictured) was nominated for best supporting actress in the film, but outrageously she men-

tion was made of her in the cast list. The girl will go far.

● RUPERT GAVIN, the new head of BBC Worldwide, has a colourful past. I don't mean, of course, his previous position as a media strategist for BT. No, I refer instead to his role as producer of a short-lived stand-up comedy act starring Arthur Smith and Phil Nice called *Fiasco Job Job*.

EDWARD WELSH





ONE YEAR ON

Part two: the view from the Right

If Tony Blair is still struggling to define an overarching ideology for his Government, the Opposition is having an even harder time trying to pin him down. A Government that is liked almost equally by the rich and the poor, and which has led a majority even of Tory voters to say that its policies are good for the country, is frustratingly difficult to criticise. So far, the right-wing critique of Labour's first year in office has been haphazard and only partly convincing.

The Tories were caught napping by Labour's confident transition into government. They had told voters to expect mayhem caused by inexperienced ministers and a lurch to the Left once Labour won power. Neither materialised. Both in the Gulf crisis and Northern Ireland, Mr Blair proved that he could be as prime ministerial as any of his predecessors. Most of his colleagues are performing respectably well. And in no area has policy been more left-wing than the manifesto promised. So the Tories, who had invested much less time preparing for opposition than Labour had spent preparing for government, were left to look for other lines of attack.

The least productive has been the charge that Mr Blair has stolen many Conservative policies. That may be true, but it serves only to entrench his attractiveness to the very voters whose support he needs to maintain. The accusation that Labour has no principles and will do anything to stay in power is equally ineffective: ICM found on Sunday that 72 per cent of voters disagreed with this, including a majority of Tory supporters.

So what of the Right's claim that Labour is all style and no substance? If anything, the opposite has turned out to be the case. Although many difficult policy decisions have been put out to review, in one year the Government has achieved much, from constitutional reform to a possible agreement on Northern Ireland. If anything, it is style on which the Government has fallen down. A party that used to pride itself on presentation has stumbled over Bernie Ecclestone, Geoffrey Robinson and Lord Irvine. And its obsessively controlling instincts towards the media are likely to prove hugely counterproductive when its popularity starts to wane.

On the economy and welfare-to-work, the Right cannot fault much of what Gordon Brown has done. Strict control of public spending coupled with independence for the

Bank of England have already given the Government an unexpected reputation for fiscal and monetary rectitude. But the Tories were right to point out that increasing tax on pension funds was a poor way of encouraging people to save more for their retirement. There is little sign yet that the Prime Minister and the Chancellor have a clear vision of exactly how they intend to reform social security.

Constitutional reform and Europe present the Right with more powerful ammunition. So far the Scots, far from rewarding Labour for giving them a parliament of their own, are already moving their support to the Scottish Nationalists. This may simply be a reaction against New Labour policies in an overwhelmingly Old Labour country. But if instead it signifies genuine support for independence, Mr Blair will have been proved wrong in his assertion that devolution would strengthen the Union.

Mr Brown has bought time on the European issue by ruling out joining the single currency during this Parliament. But the Conservatives should not allow him to prepare the country by stealth so that, by the time of the next election, membership seems inevitable and impossible to resist. This is almost the only popular policy that the Tories still possess; they should make the most of it.

Mr Blair's Government is most vulnerable to the charge of bossiness. The countryside rally and march articulated powerful resentment towards an administration that seemed to have little respect for personal freedom. But it has been interesting to watch ministers row back in the face of such protest. No time was made available for the anti-hunting Bill, plans to cut the drink-drive limit have been quietly shelved, and even the ban on beef-on-the-bone is now seen by ministers as an embarrassment.

It is this desire not to create enemies that has brought the Government the greatest popularity in polling history. Most administrations govern for "their" people against a defined opponent, whether it be the unions or the rich. Mr Blair seems determined not to play that political game. The coalition may eventually prove too broad to hold together. But in the meantime, it is not surprising that the Right's arrows fall useless to the floor and that even many Tory voters cannot help but admire Mr Blair.

BLACKSHIRT ALERT

A nasty jolt for Germany's politics of consensus

All postwar German leaders have had to pass one test that is almost never articulated in so many words. They have had to convince voters that under them, Germany would be secure from any return to the Weimar Republic's impotent politics, mass unemployment, monetary collapse and growing intolerance—the deadly mix which gave Hitler his opportunity to seize power. With the dramatic results of the Saxony-Anhalt state election, "Weimar" is back in the shorthand of the German political lexicon, not only because unemployment remains the highest since 1932 but because an extreme right-wing party has soared past the 5 per cent barrier designed to keep out the extremist fringe.

Black as the news is for Chancellor Kohl, who must now face the strong probability that he has lost the Eastern Länder and will thus almost certainly lose September's federal election, the greatest drama lies not in the slump in support for his Christian Democrats. That was in line with every opinion poll this year. But no one expected the German People's Union (DVU) to eclipse the unexpectedly modest electoral gains of Gerhard Schröder's Social Democrats by winning 12.9 per cent of votes and becoming the party chosen by a majority of first-time and young Saxon voters.

The DVU is a racist neo-Nazi party with few paid-up members and almost no party structure, bankrolled by an uncharismatic publisher and property millionaire from Munich, Gerhard Frey. It campaigned with the slogan "German money for German voters" against foreigners and asylum-seekers who were "stealing" German jobs

and against European integration. It played on deep popular resistance to giving up the mark, in a part of Germany for which it is the main gain from unification.

This result cannot be extrapolated for the whole of Germany. Saxony-Anhalt has the highest unemployment in Germany, 23.4 per cent, and the lowest growth. But the DVU could still deny the SPD overall victory. The strongest showing for an extreme-right party since the war should not be dismissed as a freak of local, or even specifically eastern, circumstance. The appeal of its racist platform is the more disturbing because immigrants, far from intimidating Saxony-Anhalt, form only 1.9 per cent of the population, one of the lowest proportions in Germany.

The "protest" vote could be unusually strong come the federal elections, because although the export sector is booming, domestic demand is stubbornly flat and jobs are still being shed. In the west as well as the east, people grumble that Germany's mainstream parties care more about the unloved euro than they do about livelihoods.

The SPD is likely to win most votes in September, but no working majority. The temptation will be strong to return to a "grand coalition" with the centre-right. Talk of that now will help the DVU. To do it could be worse. The last German grand coalition, between 1966 and 1969, was followed by a surge in political extremism. In the most settled of democracies, voters must have choices. In Germany, the giant social as well as economic task of unification is still barely begun. It is not as settled as it was; that is the signal from Saxony-Anhalt.

THE PANDA PROBLEM

Conservation strategies are not black and white

The giant panda pads on the brink of extinction. Captive breeding programmes are increasingly seen as a last resort. Yet though zoos around the world regularly swap specimens, the success rate is low. The panda has a reputation for being notoriously reluctant to reproduce. Now, with advances in scientific understanding, increasingly radical techniques are being tried. Last year Chinese scientists experimented unsuccessfully with creating a test-tube panda. Now it has emerged that attempts will be made to clone one.

With only some 1,000 giant pandas left in the wild, any attempts at stabilising the shrinking gene pool may sound welcome. Certainly every effort should be made to maintain the captive population at self-sustaining levels — for at the moment it is a desperate measure and not. But cloning is a desperate measure and one which misinterprets the basic tenets of conservation science.

ducing for a million years — but the ruthless depletion and fragmentation of its bamboo forest habitat. With no more than 100 pandas found together in any one place, and some operating in social groups of fewer than ten, these small populations are clearly not viable if they remain isolated. The giant panda may be solitary and territorial by nature, but research suggests that the female is induced to mate when, coming into season, she is competed for by the several males attracted by her pheromones. Such breeding patterns cannot easily be simulated in a captive environment, especially since the female comes into season only once a year for 72 hours.

Funds should be reserved instead for expanding and preserving habitats, deterring poaching, and planting corridors of forest to link reserves with the mountainous areas in which pandas still survive. The science of conservation cannot afford to look

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Exploitation' and the Diana fund

From Mr Mike Hudson
Sir, Trustees have an obligation to ensure that money raised in Diana, Princess of Wales's name (report and leading article, April 25; letters, April 18, 24) is used effectively.

Three years ago the National Lottery Charities Board was being criticised for taking time to give away funds. In my capacity as a management consultant to the board, I advised it to hold to its convictions, put in place procedures to assess applications thoroughly and monitor recipients' achievements. I believe the board is now widely recognised as among the leading grant-makers.

Trustees of the Diana fund are therefore right to take their time and not bow to pressure to give money away too hastily. It is very easy to write cheques to charities; it is a great deal harder to make sure the funds are put to effective use.

The trustees face two substantial challenges. First, they have to establish the unique position of the fund in relation to the many other grant-makers. They should avoid duplicating the work of other funders or performing similar functions.

Secondly, they should ensure that the fund makes grants only when applicants submit robust plans for their use and that there are procedures in place to monitor whether the recipients are achieving the desired objectives. Such arrangements cannot be established overnight.

The trustees would be well advised to weather the current storm rather than risk future complaints about ineffective giving.

Yours sincerely,
MIKE HUDSON
(Senior partner),
Compass Partnership,
203-209 North Gower Street,
London, NW1 2JL
April 26.

From Ms Margaret Murray
Sir, The strategy to protect the image of Princess Diana through trademark licensing has been flawed from the start. Trademark protection cannot monopolise every feature or reference to a public figure, as these are almost inexhaustible.

Trademarks depend on the association of images with goods for commercial purposes; ultimately it is impossible to obtain exclusive protection without using the image for that purpose. The aim was to protect the Princess's reputation from denigration by commercial exploitation but application for trademark protection made that certain.

The desire for souvenirs triggered by the death of a popular public figure demonstrates the emotional needs of the public and undoubtedly enters the public domain. Souvenirs may be commercially produced, cheap and "tacky", but most people will acquire only what they consider appropriate.

It is not better to trust the public, even if its taste is vulgar, than to link the Princess's image officially to a consumer product in a way that arouses general queasiness?

Charitable fundraising is laudable but the Princess never felt it necessary to endorse consumer products for this purpose and there is no reason to believe she would have been happy to see herself so commemorated now.

In her memory we should recognise the distinction between public grief and exploitation by trademark.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET MURRAY,
3 The Keir, West Side,
Wimbledon Common, SW19 4UG,
April 25.

From Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank
Sir, I arrived in Cabinet in 1976, six years later than Robert Carr (letter, April 23) and under a different administration but my experience was much the same. I told my permanent secretary at the Transport Ministry that I wanted to be as well briefed for Cabinet as a Treasury minister, but despite his best endeavours I never was.

The department had little knowledge outside its own area of responsibility and no easy way of acquiring it. As for the Treasury, it was tightlipped about divulging what it told the Chancellor and Chief Secretary, even on non-Treasury matters.

The Cabinet Office and the CPRS (Central Policy Review Staff) may have been meant to serve the Cabinet as a whole but, adjacent to No 10, they were really an extension of the Prime Minister's staff. I certainly never felt that I had personal access to them, even if their advice to Cabinet was a useful addition to departmental papers.

I wish I could believe that a new-model CPRS would change things. But the ineluctable progress towards presidential government will only be halted when ministers with courage and minds of their own assert their full Cabinet role in policymaking.

Able and well-resourced Cabinet ministers may occasionally fight their departmental corner too tenaciously, but they also have the capacity to contribute creatively to the wider problems with which governments deal.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM RODGERS,
House of Lords,
April 23.

From the Reverend Canon Dr Anthony Harvey and others
Sir, As canons of Westminster and members of the Chapter, some of us longstanding, with 30 years' service between us, we wish to make three points in response to your leading article, "Out of tune" (April 24).

The decisions first to suspend and subsequently to dismiss Dr and Mrs Martin Neary from their posts at Westminster Abbey were taken by the whole of the Chapter; they could never have been taken by the Dean alone.

The key issue which confronted us was that of trust; the decision we took was unavoidable in view of the independent report presented by the auditors. We acted to preserve, rather than endanger, the integrity of Westminster Abbey, its staff and its many friends and supporters.

We are confident that when the matter goes to appeal and the full evidence is presented and heard we will not be found to have acted improperly or unfairly with regard either to the processes that we used or the decisions that we took.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY HARVEY,
DONALD GRAY,
DAVID HUTT,
MICHAEL MIDDLETON,
The Chapter Office,
20 Dean's Yard,
Westminster Abbey, SW1P 3PA,
April 24.

From the Reverend Nicolas Stacey
Sir, The row at Westminster Abbey is a mark of the crisis that looms over the primacy of our cathedrals.

The Prime Minister is alleged to be concerned about the quality of the people nominated to him for bishop-

Spanish fishing
From the Secretary of the Fleetwood Fishermen's Association
Sir, Your reports of April 21 and 23 reveal what those of us in the industry have known for years: namely, that vast quantities of illegal fish are being taken by so-called "British" vessels, owned and manned by Spaniards, and sold on the markets of La Coruña, Vigo, etc. The Spaniards, wherever they fish worldwide, have absolutely no regard for conservation.

The £1 million fines and costs confirmed yesterday will be no deterrent. In my view there is only one penalty which fits the seriousness of these crimes: their MAFF licences must be forfeited.

Yours etc,
MARK HAMER,
Secretary,
Fleetwood Fishermen's Association,
19 Poulton Street,
Fleetwood, Lancashire FY7 6LP,
April 23.

London statues
From Chairman of The London Appreciation Society
Sir, Philip Howard, in his amusing comments today on London's statues, mentions that of Sir Sydney Waterlow, unique in holding hat and umbrella.

At least three other London statues have equally distinctive characteristics, ie those of Fenner Brockway (the only full-length statue sporting spectacles); George Canning (the only statue to have killed someone — when it fell in Westminster's street); and King Charles I (the only statue to have inspired three poems — two 17th-century, one anonymous, the other by Edmund Waller; and the better-known 19th-century one by Lionel Johnson).

Yours faithfully,
VALERIE COLIN-RUSS,
Chairman,
The London Appreciation Society,
Flat 7...

Solution to NHS fraud concerns

From Dr Brian D. Keighley
Sir, The BBC Panorama programme on April 20, *Health — the Trust Betrayed*, made much of the potential for general-practitioner fraud of the National Health Service through the submission of claims that are subsequently not checked by a lay auditor's access to a patient's confidential medical record.

Interviewed on the programme, the Minister of Health, Mr Alan Milburn, stated that his patience with those health authorities which have so far failed to agree mutually acceptable audit systems with local doctors will have run out by June.

As is usual in such circumstances, the Government should look to the Scottish NHS for a solution that will satisfy both professional scruples over confidentiality and the Audit Commission's legitimate concern over financial probity. In Scotland, if there is sufficient *prima facie* evidence of systematic fraud such that access to the actual medical record is required, this access will be given to a medical officer employed for the purpose by the health authority.

Using this technique, patients can

be assured that non-relevant medical details contained within records will be scrutinised only by another doctor, bound by professional rules on confidentiality, and the general public, through the Audit Commission, can be assured that public funds are properly spent.

My committee holds no brief for those doctors who defraud a public service; equally, however, we are adamant that confidences given to us by patients should remain within a professional network, and only be revealed when absolutely necessary and with their permission.

Any audit system that relies on access to confidential medical records by managers or clerks as a matter of routine will properly be resisted by doctors who still believe in a professional ethos of patient confidentiality.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN D. KEIGHLEY
(Chairman, Scottish General Medical Services Committee, British Medical Association),
The Clinic,
Buchanan Street, Balfour G63 0TS,
April 21.

'Unholy mess' at Westminster Abbey

From the Reverend Canon Dr Anthony Harvey and others
Sir, Your leader today criticising modern standards of book production rightly draws attention to the deficiencies of binding with glue, the process misleadingly known as "perfect" binding. Anyone who buys books to keep, rather than merely to read and discard, should avoid perfect-bound books. But it is frequently difficult to recognise them in the shop: often it is only when they start to disintegrate in the reader's hand that their true nature is revealed.

Should not all such books carry a conspicuous declaration, in the manner of a health warning, so that those of us who prefer not to buy them can avoid being tricked into doing so inadvertently?

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS GOULD,
80 Cleveland Road,
Chichester, West Sussex PO19 2HF,
April 23.

From Mr Nicholas Gould
Sir, Your leader today criticising modern standards of book production rightly draws attention to the deficiencies of binding with glue, the process misleadingly known as "perfect" binding. Anyone who buys books to keep, rather than merely to read and discard, should avoid perfect-bound books. But it is frequently difficult to recognise them in the shop: often it is only when they start to disintegrate in the reader's hand that their true nature is revealed.

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Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS GOULD,
80 Cleveland Road,
Chichester, West Sussex PO19 2HF,
April 23.

rics. At the moment men for the top jobs in the Church are drawn from the ranks of the full-time stipendiary priests, which in practice means from parishes and the staffs of theological colleges. Such men have virtually no management experience and the Church has no staff college providing training in management.

The paucity of talent and experience is now such that there is an urgent need for men and women of proven success in demanding secular roles to be ordained as non-stipendiary priests, who would then be available to become bishops and deans.

It is inconceivable that, let us say, an ex-ambassador as dean could have landed Westminster Abbey in its present unholy mess.

Yours faithfully,
NICOLAS STACEY,
The Old Vicarage,
Selling,
Faversham, Kent ME13 9RD,
April 24.

From Mr Edward Cross
Sir, Anyone who appreciates the beautiful choral tradition of the Anglican Church must greatly regret the apparent determination of the authorities of Westminster Abbey to re-create the *Barchester Chronicles* as a musical.

However this unfortunate dispute is resolved, the Abbey's music will be damaged. It cannot be, whatever the outcome, that any first-rate organist in Christendom would now apply to succeed Dr Neary.

I, however, am a third-rate organist. I am also Jewish. How do I apply?

Yours faithfully,
J. E. CROSS,
2 Lechliffe Road,
Radlett, Hertfordshire WD7 8HT,
April 24.

Blowing the whistle

From the Vice-Chancellor of City University
Sir, What a sorry pass we have come to in public life when it is necessary to have whistleblowers and guarantee them protection (letters, April 17).

Maybe the problem is that whistleblowers themselves have their own reasons for bringing issues into the public domain when it might have been better for the individuals and organisations concerned if internal procedures had been used, rather than giving relatively trivial issues the oxygen of publicity in the national press before due process has occurred.

I recognise that I am not being entirely intellectually consistent in expecting you to publish this letter.

Yours faithfully,
RAOUL FRANKLIN,
Vice-Chancellor,
City University,
Northampton Square, EC1V 0HB,
April 20.

Bullying in schools

From Ms Virginia Douglas
Sir, Your leader of April 22, "Battles and the bully", rightly urges action to control bullying in schools. But the finding by Kidscape that adults who are bullied at school are seven times more likely to commit suicide in later life is hardly a "stunning statistic".

Is it not possible, on the contrary, that the factors which predisposed them to commit suicide in later life are the same factors which made them targets for bullying in the first place?

Perhaps schools would do well to address the underlying cause of the victims' low self-esteem, particularly if parents are unable, for whatever reason, to do so.

Yours sincerely,
VIRGINIA DOUGLAS,
73 Ormeau Road, SW12 9QF,
April 24.

Learning from India

From Mrs Christine Jowett
Sir, Last week I was much taken by a huge slogan on the wall of a school in southern India: "There is no school equal to a decent home and no teachers equal to honest, virtuous parents."

Close inspection revealed that it was credited, not to David Blunkett, but to Mahatma Gandhi. This week a similar poster appeared on my classroom door for parents' night.

Yours faithfully,
C. JOWETT,
Bensham, 25 Newmill Road,
Dunlop, Kilmarnock, KA3 4BA,
April 24.

Mustered at last

From Mr Michael Stichbury
Sir, As the European Community develops and ties between member nations become closer, cultural hybridisation is a natural expectation.

However, the jar of mustard recently purchased from my local Tesco is going too far. The label describes it thus:

La Favorite — Moutarde d'Alsace — German Alsace Mustard — Made in England.

Three erstwhile combatants finally brought together in peace — but for how long?

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL STICHBURY,

Letters should carry a daytime

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
BUCKINGHAM PALACE
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
BUCKINGHAM PALACE
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

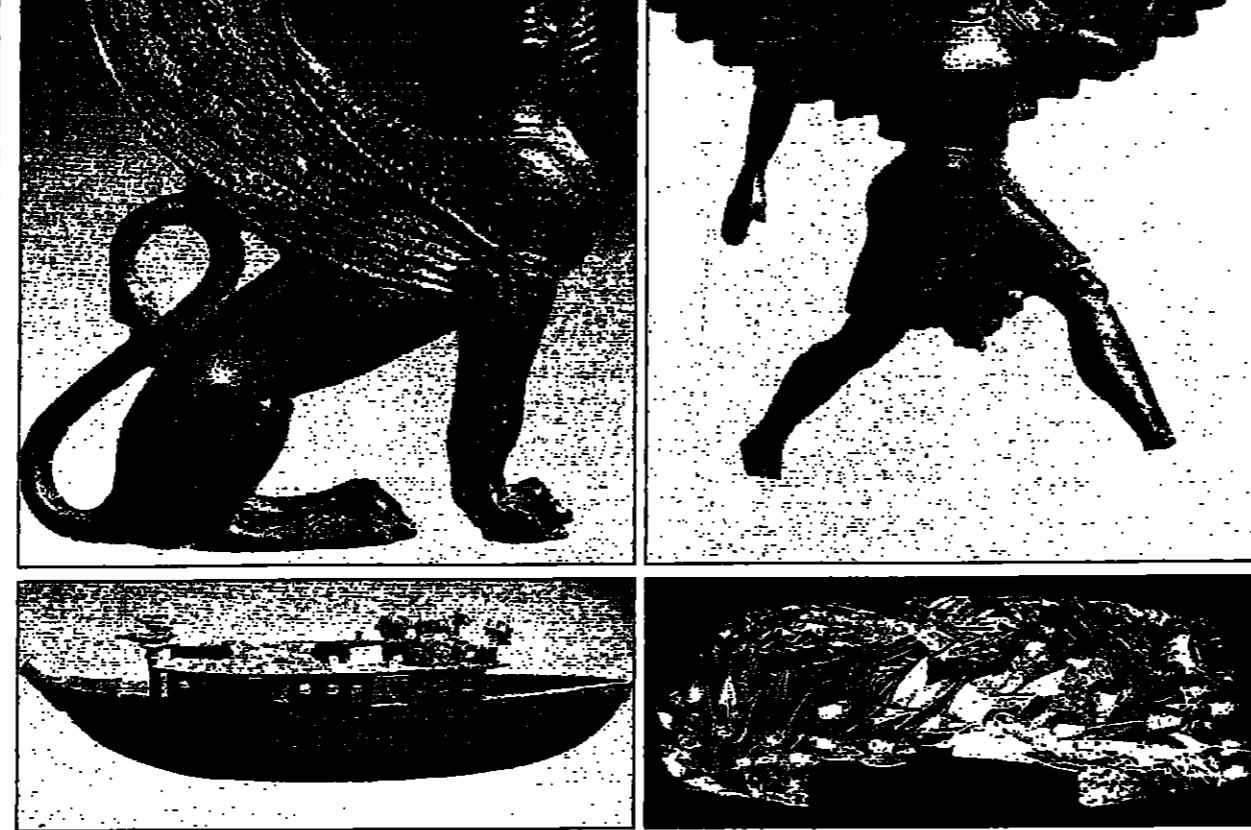
Royal engagements
The Queen will present an honorary OBE to Mrs Keiko Holmes at Windsor Castle...

Birthdays today
Lady Helen Taylor celebrates her 34th birthday today.

Anniversaries
BIRTHS: King Edward IV, reigned 1461-70 and 1471-83.

Royal Over-Seas League
The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Over-Seas League will be held at 6.30pm on Tuesday, May 5, 1998.

Duchy of Lancaster
Mr Eric Jones has been appointed Constable of Lancaster Castle in succession to the late Mr Michael Fitzherbert-Brockholes.



The finds on display include (clockwise from top left): a cast bronze seated sphinx; a winged gorgon; a diadem wrought from a band of gold leaf; and a Nuraghic bronze ship. They were all discovered in Hera's sanctuary

Grecian treasures go on show

A MAGNIFICENT group of more than 150 votive offerings dating from 700 BC to 500 BC and dedicated to Hera, wife of Zeus, will be unveiled in London today...

Dalya Alberge reports on a collection dedicated to Hera, wife of Zeus

find was "a superb example of the dynamic exchange of ideas between Ancient Greece and its colonies of Magna Graecia..."

Among the most sensational items is a golden diadem decorated with leaves and berries that may have adorned a statue of Hera...

Dinners

The Speaker, President of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme, was the host at the annual dinner held last night in Speaker's House...

University news

Queen's University, Belfast
Recent grants include: School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science...

Meeting

Royal Over-Seas League
Dr Mae Wan Ho, a Reader at the Open University Department of Biology, was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle...

Reception

Lord Hurd of Westwell, CH
was the host at a reception to mark the 25th anniversary of Mulberry Bush School, Oxfordshire...

Shipwrights' Company

The following have been installed officers for the ensuing year: Prime Warden, Mr Peter John Thomas...

Latest wills

Lady Sylvia Valentines, Trévaux
of Ruspur, West Sussex, left estate valued at £318,832 net.

School news

Eltham College
Summer term began at Eltham College on April 20 and will finish on July 10. The Parents' Lecture on April 29 will be given by Dr Nicholas Tate...

Leuchon

HM Government
Mr George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, was the host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Lancaster House in honour of Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah...

Legal appointment

Miss Jane Elizabeth Hayward has been appointed a Circuit Judge on the Wales and Chester Circuit.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy & Royal Marines
Commodore: I R Henderson - promoted to Rear-Admiral...

Army

Lieutenant-Colonel: G T Baldwin MBE ODG - to OHR Brussels...

Memorial service

Emeritus Professor R.V. Jones, CH
A memorial service for Emeritus Professor Ronald Victor Jones, CH, former Professor of Natural Philosophy at Aberdeen University...

Marriages

Mr S.J. King and Miss D.J. Beach
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 18, at All Saints Church, Wokingham...

Leonor Cheshire

Choral Evensong with Thanksgiving for Leonard Cheshire's Golden Jubilee to be held at Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff at 3.30pm on May 24, 1998.

Bishop Gordon Wheeler

A Memorial Requiem Mass for Bishop Gordon Wheeler, Bishop Emeritus of Leeds, will be celebrated by Cardinal Basil Hume in Westminster Cathedral at 5.30pm on May 11.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.A. Cox and Miss D.M. Buxton
The engagement is announced between Matt, son of the late Mr A.J. Cox, of East Ham, London, and of Mrs J.C. Cox, of Abbeville, Hampshire...

Marriages

Mr J.D. Howland Macintosh and Miss R.A.M. Macintosh
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mrs Elizabeth Howland Jackson, of Rye, Sussex, and the late Mrs Geoffrey Howland Jackson and Rachel, daughter of the Rev Dr and Mrs Andrew Macintosh, of Cambridge.

Marriages

Mr S.J. King and Miss D.J. Beach
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 18, at All Saints Church, Wokingham...

Legal appointment

Miss Jane Elizabeth Hayward has been appointed a Circuit Judge on the Wales and Chester Circuit.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS
ZUPPINGEN - On April 22nd to Angela (nee Thomas) and James, a daughter, Lucy Josephine.

DEATHS
ROSE - On Sunday 24th April 1998 in the Lynton Infirmary after so much of her life spent in the Lynton and Barnstaple area.

DEATHS
MURPHY - On Sunday 24th April 1998 in the Lynton Infirmary after so much of her life spent in the Lynton and Barnstaple area.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE
SCHNEIDER - Paul, born September 28th April 1930, died Manchester 15th February 1998.

TICKETS FOR SALE
CORPORATE Hospitality
ROYAL SCOT, TETLEY BUTTER
WORLD CUP FRIDGE 98

FOR SALE
W.U. OFFICIAL DEBENTURE SEATS
CARDIFF ARMS BAR

TICKETS
ALL GRADE DEBS
INTERNATIONAL CRICKET
ROYAL SCOT



THURSDAY APRIL 28 1998

OBITUARIES

DONALD FINDLAY

Donald Findlay, expert on church architecture, died of cancer on April 14 aged 47. He was born on June 20, 1950.

Donald Findlay turned what many might see as a melancholy, even dispiriting, task into a noble calling. As Pastoral Measure Officer (and, later, a deputy secretary of the Council for the Care of Churches), he had the job of writing assessments of the avalanche of Church of England churches proposed for redundancy under the Pastoral Measure of 1969. Findlay began this work in 1973, at a time when redundancies were approaching 100 a year, and continued it until calmer days.

The Pastoral Measure, passed by the old Church Assembly, requires official reports summarising, for the relevant diocese, the main points of interest of each church proposed for closure. Findlay became a virtual one-man Royal Commission on parish churches, perceptively assessing buildings from Saxon times to the 1960s. Whether he was confronted by the indents left by long-vanished medieval brasses, a set of cast-iron Regency communion rails, a curious piece of woodwork assembled by an antiquarian "squarson", or a revolving door introduced from a department store in the 1950s — nothing escaped his eagle eye.

In all, Findlay wrote 1,500 reports, many of the earliest with Peter Burman, the secretary of the Council for Places of Worship (as it then was). These reports were crucial in determining the fate of parish churches: whether they were to number among the 315 beautiful buildings now preserved by the Churches Conservation Trust; to be adapted to alternative uses (864 by the end of 1997), or demolished so the sites could be sold (337), or granted a reprieve because some nearby church of lesser quality could be closed instead.

His was the task of discerning every possible element of quality and interest in buildings which in many cases no one had ever studied. For example, from simply recording the makers of 19th-century stained glass he went on



to illuminate the iconography. This had initially been restricted to scripture but in the hands of artists such as Kempe it broadened to include the whole company of saints — such as the figure of St Rose of Lima which he found in a church in Plymouth.

When it came to assessing the merits of churches as recent as the 1950s, Findlay was not content to visit them, but set about studying the oeuvre of the architects who designed them.

Findlay developed a deep and discerning understanding of Anglican liturgy, which served him powerfully when advising on reorderings. At Old Oakham in Surrey he pointed out that

the marble altar of 1817 was exceptionally interesting, as it predated the ban on stone altars that was introduced after criticism of the supposedly Popish reordering of the Round Church in Cambridge. His own moderate Anglo-Catholic churchmanship reflected his upbringing in the Scottish Episcopal church.

In his church studies, Findlay was inspired by the late Canon Basil Clarke, who is believed to have visited and studied more Anglican parish churches than anyone in history — more than 11,000. Findlay, had he lived, might have run him as close as anyone.

For 25 years Findlay lived with Michael Gillingham, a connoisseur of oriental antiquities and organ scholar, who was recently appointed CBE for lifelong services to the Church. As two celibate and hospitable bachelors, they restored one of the finest early 18th-century houses in Spitalfields, in Fournier Street, which had languished for years as a banana warehouse. Findlay created the fine plantsman's garden behind the house.

For many years he was clerk to the organs advisory committee of the Churches Conservation Trust, and Francis Jackson's Georgian Suite for organ is dedicated to him. He gave quiet but unceasing support to many conservation causes, regularly slipping generous cheques in the post, and serving on the executive committee of the Georgian Group and the buildings committee of the Victorian Society. His greatest interest lay in Georgian churches, on which he was writing the first major study since Marcus Whiffen's Stuart and Georgian Churches in 1940.

He was vice-chairman of the committee of Grosvenor Chapel, where he worshipped for 20 years, and wrote a brilliant appreciation of Sir Ninian Comper's chancel in Godly Mayfair. Findlay was a devoted member of the Church of England, but retained a particular affection for the Episcopal Church of Scotland and its splendid Victorian churches. In addition to many articles, lectures and booklets on the churches of North-East Scotland, especially those of his native Banffshire, he wrote in 1996 The Protection of our English Churches to mark the 75th anniversary of the Council for the Care of Churches.

Donald Findlay, who went to school at Harrow before reading English at St Andrews, was the younger son of Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Findlay and grandson of John Ritchie Findlay, proprietor of The Scotsman and founder of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. His mother, Ailsa Margaret, nee Lindsay, was the sister of the architect Ian Lindsay.

At the beginning of this month Findlay was found to have cancer, and he died within ten days.

LADY BYERS

Lady Byers, former chairman of the Anglo-Israel Association, died on April 3 aged 83. She was born on January 21, 1915.

THE WIDOW of Frank Byers, the indomitable and sometimes frenetic Chief Whip of the Liberal Party in the House of Commons and later leader of the Liberal peers, Joan Byers supported her husband in a wide range of political activities. She devoted an appreciable part of her efforts to the important task of smoothing the feathers which he occasionally ruffled in the course of his tireless and ultimately successful attempts to revitalise the Liberal Party.

She was, however, more than his indispensable helpmate. As well as raising a family, she found the time to make her own personal and substantial contribution, both locally and nationally, to the welfare of those less fortunate than herself.

Born in Cornwall (and proud of it), she was educated at Downhurst School in London, and at what later became St Anne's College, Oxford, where she gained a degree in Modern History, acquiring a lifelong admiration for Oliver Cromwell, and also a Blue at netball to add to her distinction as a pianist and an actress.

She married Frank Byers soon after completing her studies, just before the outbreak of the Second World War, and then, while he served abroad for three years, occupied her time in nursing both her first child and her husband's prospective constituency of North Dorset — a seat which was to become one of the few Liberal gains at the 1945 general election.

They and their growing family eventually settled in



South Godstone, in Surrey, where Joan became a JP, serving on the juvenile panel, and also on the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee for the appointment of magistrates. She was chairman and then president of the local RNLI (which in 1995 awarded her its gold medal), very active on behalf of the Save the Children Fund, and a keen member of the local church.

On a wider front, she was a vigorous vice-president of the College of Occupational Therapists, and a hard-working and enthusiastic fundraiser for numerous charities, particularly for the Westminster Hospital. She was one of the

stalwarts, both as chairman and president, of the Liberal Social Council, which raised very considerable sums for the party, and a vice-president for many years of the Women's Liberal Federation.

She succeeded her husband on his death in 1984 as chairman of the Anglo-Israel Association.

She had innumerable friends and no enemies. All who came into contact with her will remember her warmth, her ready smile and her generosity. She never refused any request for help or assistance.

She is survived by one son and three daughters.

PROFESSOR MARY WARNER

Professor Mary Warner, mathematician, died in her sleep in Spain on April 1 aged 65. She was born in Wales on June 22, 1932.



A TALENTED mathematician, Mary Warner supported her diplomat husband in all his postings overseas while pursuing her own career and bringing up three children, two of whom died tragically before their own considerable talents had matured.

Shortly after her marriage to Gerald Warner, he was posted to China. There, she embarked on joint research with a professor at Beijing University, but this came to an untimely end when he came to their flat one day, crouched beside the sofa to avoid any eavesdropping microphones, and told her that, although he was a liberal, the beginning of Chairman Mao's Great Leap Forward meant that he could see her no longer.

In Rangoon, her husband's next posting, she launched and taught the first postgraduate course in higher mathematics, and in Warsaw, where they went after Rangoon, she took a doctorate in topology, which had been developed by Polish mathematicians in the 1930s. Only afterwards was she told that all candidates for higher degrees had also to pass an oral exam

in Marxist-Leninist theory. Somehow the University of Warsaw managed to overlook the requirement.

Back in London in 1968, she lectured at the City University for six years until her husband was posted to Kuala Lumpur, where she became the only person to hold teaching appointments in both the Malaysian and the Chinese universities. In 1976 she returned to City University as a reader in mathematics, becoming a professor in 1991.

Mary Wynne Davies went to school in Wales, where her father was headmaster of a

grammar school, and then won a scholarship to Somerville College, Oxford, where she was disappointed not to take a first. But she stayed on as a graduate research student under Professor Henry Whitehead, the eminent topologist. This is a branch of mathematics so abstruse that even she had great difficulty explaining what she was up to to her friends. "You mustn't think that I can do sums," she would say, "because I can't." Within this discipline she specialised, first in algebraic topology, and then, as so-called fuzzy logic attracted increasing attention,

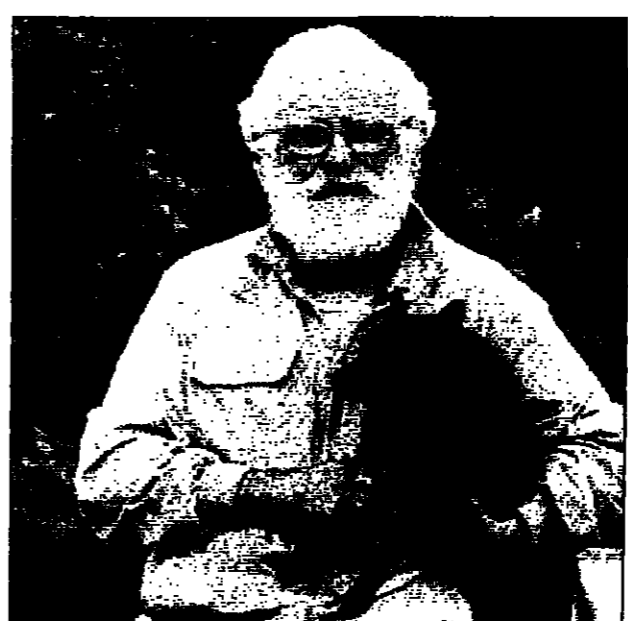
in its analogue: fuzzy topology. At City University she was known as a particularly sympathetic teacher, and several of her foreign research students tried to entice her to spend time at their own universities as a visiting professor. She was also a loyal friend. She once went to visit a male colleague a good 15 years older than herself when he was seriously ill in hospital. Visiting was restricted, and she was asked what relation she was to the patient. "I'm his mother," she replied.

Despite her travels, Mary Warner never lost her Welshness. She was always direct, saying what she thought with a caustic wit, though in order to spare her husband professional embarrassment she did her best to keep her strong emotions under control.

Once when they were giving a diplomatic dinner party in a Geneva restaurant noted for its *tartiflette à la crème*, a guest was mocking Welsh poetry, of which Mary Warner was very fond. Becoming more and more indignant, but prevented from fighting back, she finally turned illogically, but effectively on her husband, throwing at him one of the specialities of the house and bringing the conversation to a full stop.

Mary Warner is survived by her husband, now Sir Gerald Warner, and by one daughter.

Sir John Knill, Bt, canal enthusiast, died on April 15 aged 85. He was born on April 8, 1913.



THE restoration of the Kennet and Avon canal was the work of many enthusiasts, but Sir John Knill was one of the prime movers. He may have appeared eccentric, but his determination is today paying dividends as more and more people discover the heritage of the country's canal network. He had been the last person to trade along the Kennet and Avon prior to its closure in 1951, and no one was more delighted than he when the Queen formally reopened its entire length at Devizes in Wiltshire in 1990.

For half a century Knill lived for canals, becoming an established authority on inland waterways and championing their cause at every opportunity. As president of the pressure group Avon Transport 2000 he was an eloquent advocate for the use of and investment in public transport. His interests extended to railways and other alternatives to the private car.

John Kenelm Stuart Knill was the grandson and great-grandson of Lord Mayors of London. The family's aquatic connections go back to 1824 when they launched a firm of wharfingers in London, and their genealogy can be traced to 890, when they migrated from the Orkneys to Normandy.

Educated at Downside, Knill served during the war as a lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, with whom he took part in the Normandy landings. During his service years he invented the Knill machine-gun mounting, which became a regular fixture on many of the navy's smaller vessels.

On demobilisation he was an industrial management trainee, but he soon found office life restrictive and in 1948 he founded his own

company plying the Grand Union Canal near Rugby with a collection of commercial narrowboats.

In the early 1950s his vessels transported large quantities of salt by narrowboat from Middlewich in Cheshire to the Newbury Laundry in Berkshire, where it was used to soften water. But since the development of the internal combustion engine, and particularly during the interwar years, the waterways had been deteriorating through neglect, to the point where some, including the Kennet and Avon, became unusable. After operating the last boat along this canal, which had been nationalised in 1947 under the aegis of the British Transport Commission, he sold his business to Samuel Barlow at Braunston in Northamptonshire. Together with his wife he turned to pig farming at the family seat, Knill, in Herefordshire, in 1954.

But if he gave up the canals commercially, he did not give them up in spirit. Working with a former colleague, John Gould, he drew atten-

tion to this valuable and little-known resource. His skill at publicity and his persistence produced a petition of 22,000 signatures, and he was able to prevent a proposed Act of Abandonment from reaching Parliament in 1955. The canal might be un navigable, but he ensured that it was not formally closed.

Nine years later Knill joined the Ministry of Defence at Droitwich as a clerk, and in 1967 he was transferred to Bath, then a major base for the Admiralty. He lived in a former canal worker's cottage in the nearby village of Bathampton, directing countless campaigns to encourage the use of the canals.

He succeeded as the 4th baronet on the death of his father in 1973, which only added to his reputation as a genial eccentric with a very English obsession. His home was a magnificent clutter of jumble. A huge Victorian invalid chair with all sorts of adjustable swivels and gadgets dominated the living room, while an eastern idol stared quizzically at the scene from the window sill.

For 20 years he had been writing his memoirs, *John Knill's Navy*, describing his life on the canals. It is to be published next month.

His wife, whom he married in 1951, died in 1983. He is survived by his two sons, the elder of whom, Thomas, becomes the 5th baronet.

Of nautical appearance with his shock of white hair and peaked cap, he was constantly engaged in unusual projects. In 1980 he drove to London in a 1964 Messerschmitt car he had restored himself in order to protest successfully — to the then Minister for Transport, Norman Fowler, against proposals to introduce tax on cars kept off the road. (At the time he was secretary of the Messerschmitt Enthusiasts' Club.) On another occasion he acquired a diesel-fuelled narrowboat and set about restoring its original steam engine. Unfortunately it saw no more canal service, and now resides in a museum.

But his campaigning spurred other enthusiasts, and attracted grants, piecemeal, from trusts, councils and government. Bit by bit, the Kennet and Avon Canal was restored. He founded the Association of Canal Enterprises in 1982, and was president of the Commercial Narrowboat Operators Association, as well as serving on the committees of other transport organisations, including the Hereford and Gloucester Canal Trust.

By 1974 Knill was operating a canal water bus from his village to the centre of Bath. He frequently touted the small pontoon as an excellent vessel for dinner cruises, but when a group of American tourists took him up on the suggestion he had to doek early to collect an ironing-board for the dinner table. In later years he became one of the spectacles of Bath, propelling himself in a wheelchair operated by an astonishing system of levers, pulley and — it has to be said — cranks.

supplied the motive. New York, all blazing with flags, is a poignant. Seldom has any such ceremony of national public and private life collected here. The whole Union is represented. The President represents it, and beside the President, the Vice-President, and ex-President Cleveland are the Cabinet Ministers and the great officers of Government, the Speaker of the House, the Committees of the House and Senate, the Governors of States in every part of the Republic, and a legion of political and other celebrities. Other nations look part by their Ambassadors and Ministers and by their ships of war, which, alongside the North Atlantic Squadron, anchored in the Hudson just opposite the tomb — certainly the most beautiful part of the whole spectacle, as the million or two of spectators were the most impressive part. Troops of the regular army, militia from many States, civil associations, and many bands formed the procession which poured along the streets from Madison-square to Riverside, five miles to the north.

The President and most of those with him on the platform reached the tomb punctually at 10.40. They passed along avenues of human beings, estimated at 300,000, thronging the stands and clustering about the tomb. A gale was blowing from the north-west all the morning, the sky gray with driving clouds, the cold piercing; and all this, perhaps, chilled the enthusiasm. The President was well received at all points, yet at no time was the excitement irrepresible.

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Costs cut by scheme to support suppliers

By Sally Watts

A TRAINING and support programme for supply chains has been pioneered by Surrey Business Link. Its success in improving cash flows and producing substantial cost savings has attracted interest and visits from Business Links around the country.

Surrey's centre of excellence has been established in partnership with the Engineering Employers' Federation and Strategem, a Manchester company specialising in business growth. The programme began with 15 major manufacturing companies, with turnovers of between £15 million and £100 million, sending teams of up to three production staff down the supply chain. They looked to avoid wasted effort in processing orders and helped small companies to select and rationalise their own suppliers.

"Manufacturers had not expected to find so many benefits, either in reducing prices or increasing profits," says Ermine Evans, chief executive of the Woking-based Business Link.

She says the benefits include greater reliability, better delivery schedules, components that are right first time and improvements in adapting products to meet requirements.

Johnston Engineering, the manufacturer of road sweepers, is participating in the Surrey initiative and has saved £1 million through improved cashflow and reduced costs.

Surrey Business Link: telephone 01483 713 300.

Entrepreneur weighs up demand and cashes in

Rodney Hobson on an inventor who benefits from a lack of trust

As this year's winners collected their Queen's Awards for industry last week, Edgar Biss was looking back over another 12 months of exporting in the face of the strong pound. Percell, his company, won a double award for exports and technology in 1997 on top of an Export Award in 1996. Life has not got easier but he is still succeeding.

Percell makes a range of Tellerma products, an ingenious invention developed by Mr Biss, the company founder and manager. Tellerma raises productivity in banks, shops and restaurants by enabling fast and accurate cashing up and by reducing the risk of stealing from tills. It integrates sophisticated but simple-to-use weighing machines and computer software that can be tailored to any currency. The machines cost from £500 to £250,000.

Mr Biss did not apply for another award this year. He said: "On the results we have achieved we would certainly have stood a chance but it's costly to change your notepaper every year."

Exports account for nearly 80 per cent of the firm's £10 million turnover. They have grown as a proportion of total sales despite the strong pound and are the main reason for a 60 per cent leap in output in the past year. However, profits have



Edgar Biss makes money from a machine that weighs cash

not grown as quickly. Mr Biss said: "We price our products in the major currencies: the dollar, the yen, the mark and the pound. The prices in foreign currencies haven't changed but we just did not make as much when we translated our profits into sterling. Also, most of our

staff are paid in pounds and we use very little imported raw material — the value of our product is in the software that our own people do in-house — so we have not had our costs cut by the rise in the pound. "Because one currency going up and another going down balances

out, the net result would normally be the same but it has not quite worked out over the past 18 months because the pound has moved ahead of other currencies. In the previous 20 years we had got used to the pound going down."

Percell exports to 30 countries in all. Joint ventures in Germany and Switzerland spread the currency risk. As well as the 60 employees in the UK, 15 have been added in the US and five in Africa, while the two joint ventures have taken on about a dozen between them.

Customers include Homebase, WH Smith, Safeway and Pret à Manger as well as banks, post offices, chemists, fast food outlets and leisure centres. Mr Biss said: "Our products are used by any business that handles an appreciable amount of cash. Everyone is talking about the cashless society but cash continues to grow. Every one I talk to is amazed that the amount of money in circulation is rising but even in countries such as the US and Britain it is going up 3-4 per cent a year."

"Our systems and equipment do all the balancing. Every time a transaction takes place there is a balance to be worked out. For example, supposing a shop has ten tills. At the end of the day someone in the back room has to work out what is to go into the bank. You have to balance what the tills say you took and check that it is the same amount of money that is actually there."

"Tellerma also checks what the bank receives. Each time money changes hands, someone gives it and someone accepts it and no one trusts each other."

Redwood accuses Labour of making tax burden worse

By Brian Collett

THE tax burden, the cause of most of the problems suffered by small businesses, is being ignored by the Government, John Redwood, the Tory frontbench spokesman on trade and industry, said last week.

He accused Barbara Roche, the Small Firms Minister, of tinkering with the problems by introducing the Enterprise Zone Website, proposing late-payment legislation and talking of improving the Business Links service, but overlooking the root cause. "Most small businesses have no contact with a Business Link," he said.

At the same time the burden on business had been made heavier by extra petrol tax, the mobile telephone tax, the taxing of pension funds and the earlier payment of corporation tax. "There has been a £25 billion tax hike, a huge tax hit in the first year of this Government," said Mr Redwood.

He attacked the over-regulation of small companies and the ban on beef on the bone, one of the measures that had given agricultural businesses a hard time. His criticism came on the day that the first beef-on-the-bone prosecution failed.

A further failure, he said, was the Government's sterling policy, which had caused some small business exporters to shut down. He promised: "We'll fight this Government on the beaches on every issue."

Mr Redwood was, however, unwilling to predict the changes that the Tories would make if they were voted back in because so many circumstances could be different in a

few years' time, except that they would exempt small businesses from the minimum wage rule and most of the social chapter.

Mr Redwood was speaking after his address on European economic and monetary union at a London luncheon of the UK 200 Group, the organisation of chartered accountants. EMU, he said, was like taking out a joint bank account with the neighbours, leading to tensions and quarrels if one partner withdrew more than he deposited.

For non-exporting small businesses, which are in the majority, the adoption of a single currency would be all cost and no benefit.

Exporters could find themselves under pressure from their overseas customers to deal in euros during the change-over before the single currency fully replaced national currencies. "You must then decide whether you have the muscle to tell them to push off," said the arch-Euro-sceptic, "and those who wish to go over to the euro will have to calculate to six places of decimals."

Mr Redwood warned international traders that, although foreign exchange costs would disappear, banks would probably increase their charges for money transmission to offset the cost of gearing up for the euro. He said that, even by cautious estimates, Britain's bill for adjusting to the single currency would be £10 billion.

He gave notice that if the Government decided to take Britain into the single currency it might find "my dead body in the way."



"Of course we understand the problems of small businesses — that's why we never give them any money!"

Personal computer users should not forward the clocks to midnight on December 31, 1999, to test for millennium compliance, they are warned by Phil Webb, director of the consulting arm of BDO Stoy Hayward. He said: "To perform this action is to risk losing data. Even if you have taken back-ups from the system there is still a chance that you can lose integral memory information such as passwords."

Mr Webb said that forwarding the time would not necessarily test the hardware sufficiently anyway. He said: "With the demand for specialists increasing daily, it is

only a matter of time before cowboy operations jump on the bandwagon."

The Department of Trade and Industry is launching a new category — for the best newcomer — in its annual Export Awards for Smaller Businesses. The winner will receive prizes worth more than £5,000 in cash and professional services. Forms, which can be obtained from the administrators, Kompass British Exports, on fax

01342 335860, must be returned by May 20.

Bogus rating consultants have emerged with the start of revaluations for the uniform business rate to take effect in April 2000, says the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. David Harvey, secretary of the ACCA small business committee, said businesses should check the status of the adviser and refuse to pay any money until the job is done satisfactorily.

A franchise certificate equivalent to NVQ level 3 is introduced today by the British Franchise Association. Sponsored by Midland Bank, the course costs £1,600 per candidate. Details from Robert Looker on 01491 578049.

Lloyds Bank has launched a Website for female entrepreneurs, Female Focus 2000, on www.lloydsbank.co.uk.

Employer clubs comprising small businesses and individuals are offering training courses to offenders aged 16 to 25 under a scheme called Trading Places begun this month by the Focus Central London training and enterprise council. Contact: 0171-896 8484.

Nabarro Nathanson, the law firm, is providing a free update on significant developments in EU law and policy by e-mail through its Website, www.nabarro.com.

An agreement for mutual benefit has been forged between the National Federation of Enterprise Agencies — which has 120 members — and the Home Business Alliance, which represents some 4,000 home-based businesses.

Under the agreement the federation's agencies will introduce home-working clients to the alliance, while the alliance will recommend members with plans to start up or grow a home-based business to the federation's nearest agency. The two bodies will also combine to lobby government departments. Inquiries: 01354 658850.

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Huckerby's hat-trick helps ITF high risers

The story so far

Nearly the end of another month, then. Indeed, just a few more games to be played in April and then we'll find out whether my all-out assault on the monthly prize has paid off or not.

Not, I imagine, there will be players with Bergkamp and Overmars in their team, unlike yourself. Absolutely: I don't expect to get in the money, but I'll be disappointed if I don't do better than usual. It's more important to take part than to win, and I think I've been competitive at the very least.

Your Leicester contingent certainly have been. Yes, and my man Muzzy Izzet has been spoken of as a future England player. I hope you noticed that he scored against Derby on Sunday - in fact, the only surprise is that there were four headed goals in that game and Matt Elliott didn't score any of them. But at least he gained points from the clean sheet.

I have to admit that your faith in those two has been entirely justified. But I hope you unloaded Kevin Gallacher, which you seemed to be planning this time last week.

As a matter of fact I did. I can tell from your smug expression that you didn't exchange him for a Newcastle player in the end, whatever you'd planned.

I certainly didn't. I took the view that they might have more games left to play than anyone except Arsenal, but that they weren't going to win any of them, or score many even if they did: whereas the man I signed had a couple of fixtures that gave him a fair chance of scoring. So who was it, then?

A promising young talent that I first spotted playing on loan to a lower-division club: he's such a prospect that I plan to start with him next season, however much he costs. A pure out-and-out goalscorer, and cheaper than Gallacher.

And would this player have scored a hat-trick on Saturday, by any chance? He certainly would. Darren Huckerby, heads-down, no-nonsense goal machine.

Ten bonus points for the hat-trick. I need hardly remind you.

Exactly: and Coventry have a home game with Wimbledon tomorrow night.

Good point, another game in April. But you probably don't want me to remind you that Wimbledon have kept clean sheets in five of their last six matches, do you? Irrelevant: Huckerby defies the laws of logic. Another three from him against the Dons, and I might even contemplate the £1,000 prize after all.

This is the final week to garner points for the monthly prize; why the visitors' goals at Elland Road helped boost ITF team fortunes

The final monthly ITF prizes of the season will be announced next weekend. For the winners of the main and internet leagues, there is a prize of £1,000 in addition to an autographed football, Mitre sportsbag and premier league match tickets which go to the winners of the students', women's and youth leagues.

This week's highest climber, Mrs S. Petty of Chalfont St. Peter, Buckinghamshire, was one of a number of ITF entrants to benefit from the virtuoso goalscoring performance of Coventry City's Darren Huckerby. His 17-point score over the past week came from his appearance in the match against Leeds United at Elland Road (worth one point), his three goals in that game (worth two points each, a total of six) and the ten point bonus for a hat-trick.

Mrs Petty's team, Mineola FC, was also well-served by a watertight defence. Ian Walker, the goalkeeper, and the back four of Jeff Kenna, Pontus Kaarmark, Sol Campbell and Nigel Winterburn, did not concede a goal between them, while only dropped points from Kenna, as Blackburn failed to beat Wimbledon, and Winterburn's yellow card at Barnsley prevented a perfect defensive display. Muzzy Izzet's goal in Leicester City's win against Derby also helped the score upwards.



In the higher reaches of the ITF lists, jumps are relatively small, with fewer entrants on the same points totals. Thus a modest-sounding hop of only 266 places by Wender's Finest, selected by Mr A Wilson of Berkshire, taking the team

HOW IS YOUR TEAM DOING?
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Huckerby: his hat-trick for Coventry, giving him 17 points, proved crucial for the highest jumpers of the week

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The Times Faxback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing current and total scores, dates, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the ITF league and, if appropriate, your mini-league (women's, students', youth). Scores and transfer confirmations are updated by 12 noon on the day following a match or matches.

Make sure you have your ten-digit PIN number ready when you call. To obtain an ITF team faxback, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If your fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or press the on-hook or telephone button instead and dial the number below. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. Calls cost £1 per minute and are available in the UK only.

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WOMEN'S LEAGUE

1	S Whitfield	Snail Busters	1085
2	C Purdy	Kate's Cosmos	1078
3	J Gardner	15 Churnbawumbas	1062
4	A Finch	Annette's Angels	1055
5	A Hambrow	The Breconians 1	1051
6	B Fletcher	Ad Fab	1041
7	C Cheshire	Cheshire's Cats	1034
8	C Purdy	Kate's Upstarts	1031
9	Adach	Fantasy Wolves 11	1015
10	M Portwood	Women Can Play 2	1014
11	C Ruiz-Guimaras	Callista Arias	1005
12	F Airport	Farmory Pinkies	1000
13	J Pepper	Pepper Pots	1000
14	J Woolner	Jane's FC One	984
15	T Saul	No Slip Ups	974
16	L Emery	Buggys Boys	970
17	H Oram	Mag's Eleven	959
18	M Nicol	Pipitocat	954
19	S Brooks	Sandra's Specials	954
20	P Johnston	XI Superstars	941

STUDENTS' LEAGUE

1	N Wheatley	H D G Is A Sad Waster	1196
2	N Wheatley	Wetheridge Is Ill	1128
3	T Gardner	6 Churnbawumbas	1118
4	J Gardner	15 Churnbawumbas	1082
5	E Carmichael	Jedi Masters	1023
6	M Slada	Fantasia One	1007
7	Steven Shipley	Set Against	981
8	G Wilson	Dog Soldiers	978
9	W Razzak	Fantasia	939
10	F Ferguson	Smoochy Sue Barker	914
11	D Hargraves	The Levellers	902
12	J Frost	Variety Sports Inter	896
13	C Marianczak	Jansen's XI	894
14	N Coleman	Inesarchoteocoby	885
15	J Windset	Father Shaboooby	885
16	G Skivington	Dynamo Skiv	882
17	M Baker	Total Carnage	878
18	I McGill	The White Helmers	864
19	C Clark	Clark United	862
20	D McGulgan	Mediocrity	860

YOUTH LEAGUE

1	M Somapala	Honey Flames	1124
2	R Wicke	Robbed	1074
3	J Gardner	15 Churnbawumbas	1062
4	M McPhillips	Ballygallyovers	1055
5	D Lewis	Lewis Boys 11	1043
6	O Lidgard	Oliver's Army	1020
7	C Oyston	The Offspring FC	1002
8	M Roberts	Kystonia Three	992
9	G Richards	G Force 2	974
10	J Lawrence	Smoochy United	918
11	D Griffiths	Gwacacotu	906
12	J Brady	Jamie's Jammers	896
13	G Richards	Gee Force Three	894
14	C Marianczak	Jansen's XI	894
15	N Brotherton	Total Commitment	893
16	E Swirles	Esther's Entertainers	880
17	T Quattley	Fruitas	879
18	K Thadif	Flash XI	876
19	B McMillan	No Opposition	871
20	R Dhendaa	Come Back Merson	865

ITF LEAGUE

1	A Luckhurst	Tobe	1248
2	Mr M Jones	J04	1247
3	Mr M Jones	J05	1243
4	Mr P Turner	Te B Cup	1234
5	A Luckhurst	Caroline B	1224
6	A Newkirk	Nadir	1222
7	S Turner	Don 2	1218
8	P Turner	Turner's Earners 5	1216
9	J Heather	Enid 4	1213
10	S Turner	Turners Earnit 5	1213
11	S Turner	Score 4	1212
12	Mr D Burch	Abz	1211
13	G Dolan	Genesee	1204
14	P Bee	Bumble Two	1201
15	A Luckhurst	Tobitt	1201
16	D Walton	Numpy Nuts	1199
17	A Luckhurst	Eddie Woo	1198
18	T Turner	Turner's Earners 1	1187
19	N Wheatley	H D G Is A Sad Waster	1196
20	P Bown	Bees XI	1182
21	Jenny Dryer	Nudge Nudge Wink Wink	1181
22	Chris Forde	Game of Two Pints	1180
23	Mary Ann Kennedy	Too Farr	1185
24	C Burr	Burr's Spout 4	1183
25	Mary Ann Kennedy	Inverness Undecided	1182
26	P Turner	Turner's Earners 2	1180
27	A Luckhurst	Caroline A	1177
28	Barba Papa a la Bacon	Novita Spoilers	1177
29	D Burch	Random Reserve	1177
30	A Luckhurst	Wool	1170
31	M Lindquist	Huntley's Rangers	1165
32	Herry Wheeler	Quilo Fan	1165
33	T Turner	Turner's Earners 6	1161
34	P Turner	Turner's Earners 4	1158
35	P Turner	Turners Earnit 1	1157
36	Mico Madden	Poachers never change	1153
37	Chris Forde	AC Doi UK	1153
38	D Brown	Random Selection	1152
39	T Gammage	Drowned Goldfish	1149
40	Andrew Hales	Wetherby Racing 7	1146
41	N Bennett	Can't Lose B Team	1145
42	J Murray	Beaswithanders5	1144
43	Graeme Dabnor	St Renny Strikers	1144
44	R Lockyer	Rachael's	1143
45	James Tan	Red Scousers	1142
46	Balku	Goofy FC	1137
47	Graeme Dabnor	St Renny Streighteners	1134
48	V Coz	Alan Cowe Dumper Hansen	1133
49	P Turner	Turners Earnit 2	1130
50	N Wheatley	Witheridge Is Ill	1128
51	B Bana	Toddy 1	1128
52	Malcolm Jackson	Dessert	1128
53	Mrs A Staszkiwicz	J.W.S. Barsteward	1128
54	Susan Makin	Spud2	1128
55	M Forde	Foxy	1123
56	P Turner	Turner's Earners 9	1119
57	T Gardner	6 Churnbawumbas	1118
58	Michael Horan	St. Patrick's Charloters	1117
59	S Birchfield	Bugslegs 1	1116
60	Graeme Dabnor	St Renny Strollers	1116
61	P Turner	Turner's Earners 10	1112
62	Mr D Patel	Dp4	1111
63	Tim Oldfield	Winstor Warriors 1	1109
64	Mr D Patel	Do2	1108
65	Staszkiwicz	Putania	1108
66	Mr M Jones	Lee Sharpe	1108
67	P Turner	Turner's Earners 3	1106
68	J Hunt	John Hunt Taunter 8	1104
69	AJ Hastings	Golden Wonders	1102
70	EJ Kieby	Totted Head 2	1102
71	I Ralph	Marco Champions	1102
72	D Lawrence	Aquatic Argyle	1100
73	Mrs A Staszkiwicz	Frank Gallacher	1097
74	Colin Bennett	Rose's Raiders	1097
75	P Turner	Turner's Earners 7	1096
76	Andy Robson	Q15	1095
77	Mrs A Staszkiwicz	Butt Stripe	1095
78	Mrs A Staszkiwicz	Ellen Hiddle	1095
79	Michael Huddleston	Pulp Faction III	1095
80	Mr D Patel	D03	1094
81	P Bee	Bumble Twelve	1091
82	P Turner	Turner's Earners 8	1091
83	Mary Ann Kennedy	Other Peck Reg	1089
84	L Clark	A C Ud	1089
85	J Swaim	Lebliss And Poturias	1087
86	Mr Prik	Dog Eat Dog Athletes	1087
87	Mrs A Staszkiwicz	Joe Jones	1087
88	J Hunt	John Hunt Taunter 7	1087
89	Brian O'Hare	The Warriors (Come out to play)	1086
90	Grady	Wormo	1086
91	Mr D Edbrooke Stainer	Ca	1086
92	A Satt	Spartak Monkey	1085
93	Mrs A Staszkiwicz	Snail Busters	1085
94	G Harrison	Drawinging	1085
95	Kiran R Patel	Brute Force	1084
96	Richard Lorne	KRP FC	1084
97	D Wildsher	Homchurch Hotshots again	1084
98	Mrs A Staszkiwicz	Hatters	1084
99	Mrs A Staszkiwicz	Mom's Plate	1083
100	Bluemantle Poursuivant	Sepirate Bourty	1082

PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE

1	Simon Grayson	Aston Villa	675
2	Patrick Berger	Liverpool	647
3	Rob Savage	Leicester City	643
4	Paul Simpson	Derby County/Wolves	642
5	Steve Potts	West Ham United	635
6	Jonathan Hunt	Derby County	635
7	Phil Babl	Liverpool	618
8	David Seaman	Arsenal	616
9	David Batty	Newcastle United	609
10	John Salto	Coventry City	602
11	All-Irga Hunsford	Leeds United	590
12	Chris Powell	Derby County	584
13	Kevin Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	579
14	Nicky Butt	Manchester United	572
15	Kyle Lightbourne	Coventry City	571
16	Dean Brown	Coventry City	570
17	Born Kwame	Liverpool	570
18	Dean Blackwell	West Ham United	569
19	David Tuttle	Crystal Palace	569
20	Colin Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	557
21	Andy Townsend	Aston Villa/Middlesbrough	553
22	Richard Johnson	Leeds United	548
23	David Backham	Manchester United	538
24	Andrew Liddle	Barnsley	538
25	Pontus Kaarmark	Leicester City	535
26	Ian Pearce	West Ham United	533
27	Teddy Sheringham	Manchester United	531
28	Kasey Keller	Leicester City	530
29	Nicky Eastwood	Leicester City	529
30	Gernate Le Saux	Chelsea	528
31	John Beresford	Southampton	527
32	Lara Bohnen	Blackburn Rovers	526
33	Kevin Curran	Wimbledon	524
34	Frank Lebovitz	Chelsea	517
35	Dean Holdsworth	Wimbledon	513
36	Paul Williams	Coventry City	512
37	Robbie Fowler	Liverpool	504
38	Nigel Martyn	Leeds United	503
39	Andrew Bates	Tottenham Hotspur	502
40	Darren Fletcher	Crystal Palace	491
41	Robin Van Der Laan	Derby County	488
42	Ligo Ertugru	Aston Villa	488
43	Kevin Muscat	Crystal Palace	488
44	Mark Wright	Liverpool	484
45	Steve Lomas	West Ham United	483
46	Roger Crox	Tottenham Hotspur	481
47	Steve Clarke	Chelsea	481
48	David Weir	Leeds United	474
49	Ian Dowd	West Ham United	470
50	Spencer Prior	Leicester City	466
51	Jason Eust	Wimbledon	464
52	Gary Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	463
53	Nail Redfern	Barnsley	461
54	Kevin Hitchcock	Chelsea	448
55	Colin Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	445
56	John Scales	Crystal Palace	438
57	Andy Roberts	Wimbledon	437
58	Sewart Cosedine	Tottenham Hotspur	436
59	Andy Sinton	Barnsley	435
60	Danny Williamson	Barnsley	430
61	John Harrison	West Ham United	430
62	Garth Southgate	Aston Villa	424
63	Barbaros Zico	Chelsea	419
64	Lee Sharpe	Leeds United	400
65	Maro Edworthy	Crystal Palace	387
66	Dennis Williams	Leeds United	387
67	Lee Carsley	Derby County	384
68	Alan Shearer	Newcastle United	365
69	Gary Neville	Manchester United	347
70	Mary Whitlow	Bolton Wanderers	230

INTERNET LEAGUE

1	P Bown	Bees XI	1192
2	Jenny Dryer	Nudge Nudge Wink Wink	1191
3	Chris Forde	Game of Two Pints	1186
4	Mary Ann Kennedy	Too Farr	1185
5	Mary Ann Kennedy	Inverness Undecided	1182
6	Barba Papa a la Bacon	Novita Spoilers	1177
7	Herry Wheeler	Quilo Fan	1165
8	Chris Forde	AC Doi UK	1153
9	Mike Madden	Poachers never change	1153
10	Andrew Bates	Wetherby Racing 7	1146
11	Graeme Dabnor	St Renny Strikers	1144
12	James Tan	Red Scousers	1142
13	Balku	Goofy FC	1137
14	Graeme Dabnor	St Renny Streighteners	1134
15	Mrs A Staszkiwicz	J.W.S. Barsteward	1128
16	Susan Makin	Spud2	1128
17	Michael Horan	St. Patrick's Charloters	1117
18	Graeme Dabnor	St Renny Strikers	1116
19	Tim Oldfield	Winstor Warriors 1	1109
20	Staszkiwicz	Putania	1108

FA CUP LEAGUE

1	Susan Makin	Spud for the Cup	320
2	Mr M Jones	Te B Cup	320
3	Mr P Turner	J05	319
4	Mr M Jones	J04	316
5	Jon Fregon	Fa Cup	301
6	Mr P Turner	Te W Cup	301
7	G Dolan	Claret Sky	292
8	Mr P Turner	To D Cup	289
9	Susan Makin	Spud	287
10	Mrs A Staszkiwicz	R.A.S. Muritz	286
11	Mrs A Staszkiwicz	March Instep	282

Tomorrow's games could hold £1,000 key

Nick Szczepanik examines the four crucial Premiership games that could decide the April prize

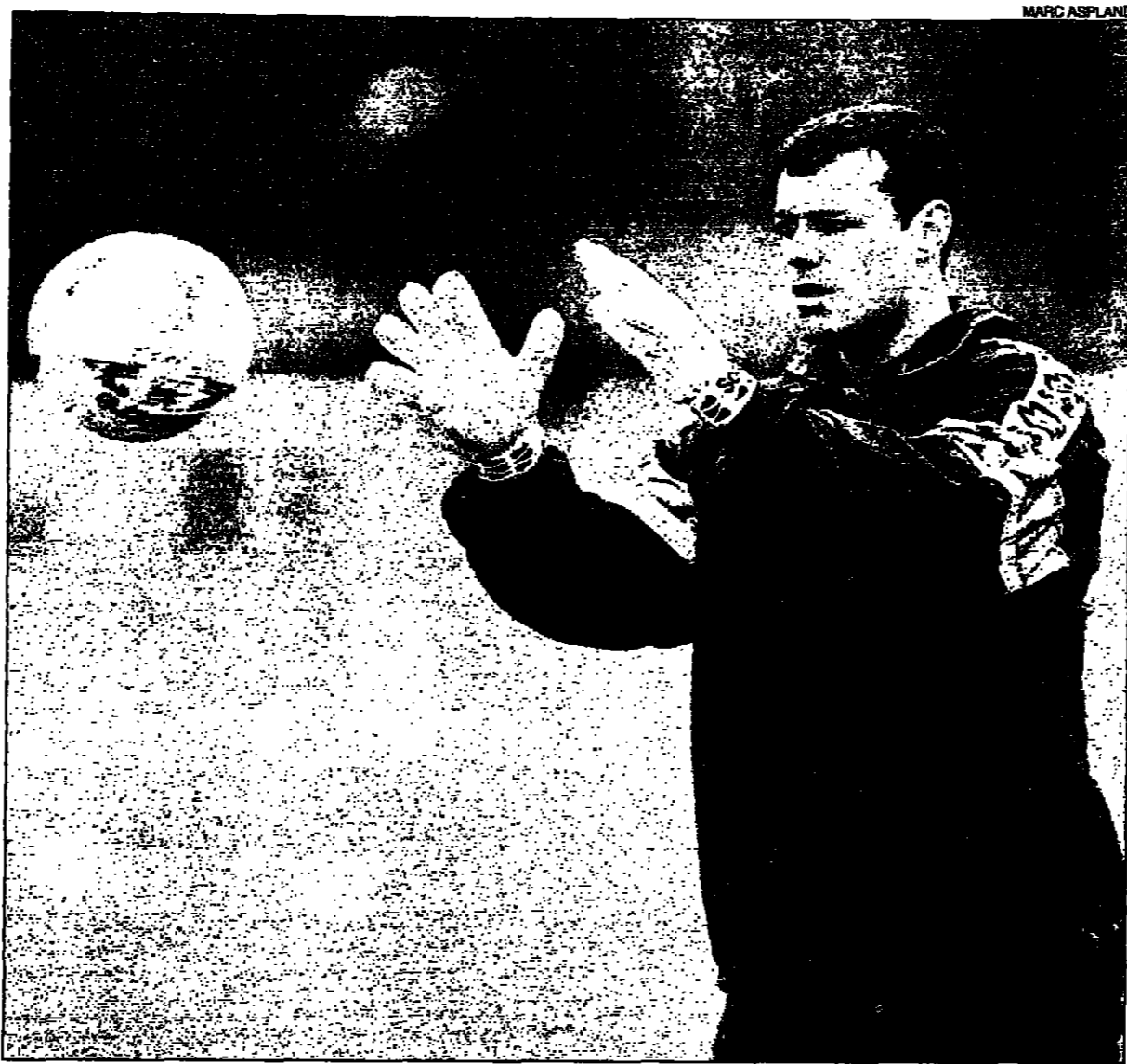
Four FA Cup Premiership fixtures, postponed earlier in the season because of cup commitments, are played tomorrow evening...



and Huckerby may present a sterner challenge than some of the Dons' recent opponents. Leicester City, following their impressive performance at Pride Park...

The game which catches the eye is Derby County's visit to Arsenal to take on the champions...

Wimbledon themselves visit Coventry City with Neil Sullivan, the goalkeeper, in search of his sixth clean sheet...



Sullivan: the Wimbledon goalkeeper has kept five clean sheets out of six, though the Coventry attack will test him

THIS WEEK'S MOVES

There are no transfers in ITF this week

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team...

THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone...

YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628. Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

GOALKEEPERS

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £, FA(w), FA, LG(w), Tot. Lists goalkeepers like Leighton, Seaman, Bosnich, Watson, Flowers, Branagan, Kerr, Gould, De Zoey, Ogrtovic, Nash, Miller, Poom, Dykstra, Westwater, Myhre, Roussat, Reid, Gottschalks'n, Marshall, Martyn, Keller, James, Schmelchel, Howie, Given, Goram, Pressman, Jones, Main, Walker, Milloko, Sullivan.

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £, FA(w), FA, LG(w), Tot. Lists central defenders like O'Neill, Adams, Keown, Grimandi, Bould, Southgate, Ehioqua, De Zeeuw, Mossa, Appleyby, Hendry, Henchoz, Pedersen, Taggart, Bergsson, Fairclough, Fish, Ansoni, MacKay, Clarke, Lambourde, Shaw, Williams, Walsh, Lingham, Tuttle, Hreidarsson, Silnic, Laursen, Pressley, Shields, Gilic, Watson, Tiller, Weir, Hughes, Wetherall, Halie, Molenaar, Radebe, Elliott, Kasamark, Johnson, Prior, Wright, Matteo, Kvarme, Babb, H Berg, May, Bellister, Johnson, Albert, Peacock, Howey, Pistone, Porrini, Bjorklund, Amoroso, Gough, Walker, Newsome, Atherton, Dryden, Lundekvam, Monkou, McCluskey, Campbell, Scallies, Vega, Calderwood, Ferdinand, Hall, Unsworth, Potts, Pearce, Roberts, Perry, Blackwell.

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £, FA(w), FA, LG(w), Tot. Lists midfield players like Salako, Johansen, O'Donnell, Bittner, Currie, Lambert, D Wise, Di Matteo, Newton, Poyet, McAllister, Solivetti, Telfer, Boateng, Rodger, Pitcher, Warhurst, Lombardo, Curcio, Eranio, Powell, Dally, Van Der Laan, Hunt, Bohinen, R Winters, Smith, Parkinson, Farnley, Williamson, Hutchison, McCann, Jackson, Lavety, McIntyre, Hyslop, Bowyer, Hasland, Sharpe, Ribeiro, Parker, Lannon, Izzet, Taylor, McManaman, Leonardson, Thomas, Redknapp, P Ince, Beckham, Giggs, Keane, Cole, Davies, Speed, Lee, Gillespie, Batty, Barnes, Laudrup, Thern, Albertz, McCall, Carbone, Magilton, Pembroke, Hyde, Whittingham, Richardson, Palmer, Oakley, Sakerloglu, Sinton, Anderson, Fox, Howells, Ginola, Bertl, Berkevic, Lomas, Forsyth, Lampard, Sinclair, Earle, Ardley, Hughes, Hughes, Kennedy.

STRIKERS

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £, FA(w), FA, LG(w), Tot. Lists strikers like Dodds, Wright, Bergkamp, Anelka, Yorke, Coyle, Milosevic, Hristov, Hendrie, Marcell, Fjortoft, Gallacher, Dahlin, Sutton, Blake, Beardsley, Holdsworth, Jackson, Johnson, Donnelly, Larsson, Hristov, Zola, Hughes, T Flo, D Dublin, Huckerby, Whelan, Moldovan, Shipperley, Dyer, Padovano, Sharnidge, Balzano, Burdon, P Wanchope, McLaren, Olafsson, Britton, Ferguson, Barmby, Cadamarteri, Robertson, Hamilton, Crawford, Wright, Mitchell, Hesselbaink, Wallace, Kewell, Heskey, Marshall, Fenton, Fowler, Berger, Riedle, Owen, Solskjaer, Sheringham, Scholes, Coyle, Coyne, Shearer, Tomasson, Andersson, Negri, Rozental, Durie, Booth, Di Canio, Humphreys, Le Tissier, Hirst, Ostendstad, Davies, O'Boyle, Grant, Iversen, Ferdinand, Armstrong, Dominguez, Klinsmann, Hartson, Kitson, Gayle, Ekoku, C Cort.

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £, FA(w), FA, LG(w), Tot. Lists midfield players like Jess, Bernard, Overmars, Vieira, Hughes, Parfour, Pratt, Draper, Taylor, Hendrie, Redfern, Timker, Sheridan, Bullock, Wilcox, McKinnay, Sherwood, Fittcroft, Thompson, Sellers, Prandesti.

MANAGERS

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £, FA(w), FA, LG(w), Tot. Lists managers like Miller, Wenger, Gregory, Wilson, Hodgson, Todd, Van Jaanen, Vielli, Strachan, Lombardo, Smith, McLean, Paton, Kendall, Jefferies.

GOALKEEPERS

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £, FA(w), FA, LG(w), Tot. Lists goalkeepers like Dixon, Winterburn, Pett, Staunton, Wright, Grayson, Nelson, Eaden, Thompson, Bernard, Kenna, Vekry, Cox, Whitlow, Elliott, Phillips, Boyd, McKinnay, McNamara, De Saux, Petrescu, Babayaro, Sinclair, Burrows, Hall, Nilsson, Gordon, Edworthy, Smith, Powell, Yates, Rowett, Phelan, Ward, O'Kane, Locke, Kerr, Kelly, Robertson, Guppy, Bjornsbjerg, McAteer, Jones, Irwin, Neville, P Naville, Watson, Barton, Pearce, Chelard, Stensness, Hinsheliff, Barrett, Nolan, Dodd, Fennell, Beresford, Wilson, Edinburgh, Carr, Dicks, Impey, Breacker, Thatcher, Cunningham, Kimble.

GOALKEEPERS

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £, FA(w), FA, LG(w), Tot. Lists goalkeepers like L Dixon, Winterburn, Pett, Staunton, Wright, Grayson, Nelson, Eaden, Thompson, Bernard, Kenna, Vekry, Cox, Whitlow, Elliott, Phillips, Boyd, McKinnay, McNamara, De Saux, Petrescu, Babayaro, Sinclair, Burrows, Hall, Nilsson, Gordon, Edworthy, Smith, Powell, Yates, Rowett, Phelan, Ward, O'Kane, Locke, Kerr, Kelly, Robertson, Guppy, Bjornsbjerg, McAteer, Jones, Irwin, Neville, P Naville, Watson, Barton, Pearce, Chelard, Stensness, Hinsheliff, Barrett, Nolan, Dodd, Fennell, Beresford, Wilson, Edinburgh, Carr, Dicks, Impey, Breacker, Thatcher, Cunningham, Kimble.

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NEWS

Serb troops pour into Kosovo

Kosovo was sliding into war yesterday as Serbian police and Yugoslav Army units flooded the province's western flank in unprecedented strength while liberation army fighters emerged from frontline trenches in broad daylight.

More casualties were reported on both sides, for whom events on the ground are now a world away from the diplomatic niceties being exchanged by Western governments unable to get to grips with Kosovo's ethnic hatred.

Author interviewed killer for six months

The author of the forthcoming book about Mary Bell disclosed that she spent six and a half months interviewing the child killer in depth. Gitta Sereny said she spent between eight and ten hours a day talking to and questioning Ms Bell about her life and childhood influences on Tyneside.

Smokers' gene

A smoker's fate may depend on a single gene which provides a defence against toxic chemicals in cigarette smoke. When it is disabled in mice, they quickly develop skin tumours in response to cigarette smoke.

Forward with Labour

Imagination is one of the key aspirations of the millennium. But does the Blair Government have enough to justify a second term? Labour's first year in power.

Shares plunge

The London stock market suffered its sharpest fall this year as fears of a rise in US interest rates triggered a worldwide sell-off of shares.

Polish spy returns

One of the West's top Cold War agents in Eastern Europe, sentenced to death by a Communist court, returned to Poland, hailed as a hero by some and a traitor by others.

Nationwide scores

Nationwide Building Society scored a winner when it agreed to sponsor a small northern football club that has just returned to the Football League. The open goal was at Halifax.

Middle East hopes

Expectations of a possible breakthrough at next week's London Middle East peace conference were raised by the disclosure that Tony Blair would play a significant role.

SAS broke law

An SAS corporal organised illegal weapons and anti-terrorist courses at the regiment's base, a court was told. Manchester United footballers, and gun club members took part.

Iraq executions

Iraq was accused of transferring 3,800 detainees to underground dungeons near Baghdad and executing more political prisoners.

Drug strategy

Money seized from drug barons will provide treatment for addicts and fund education programmes for children.

Mafia death throes

The New York Mafia - rudderless, leaderless and racked by internecine war - is in its death throes, according to Federal agents and police.

Solicitor stole

A solicitor who stole thousands of pounds to pay for a sex change operation used the identities of dead children to launder the money.

Danes strike

Half a million workers began a national strike in Denmark that could paralyse the economy and throw into question the Treaty of Amsterdam.

ITV to pose the £1m question

ITV is to make British television history by launching the first game show with a prize of £1 million. Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? will rival the BBC's National Lottery Show and transform game shows from the days when contestants were content to win a cuddly toy and pop-up toaster.



Poisonous floodwaters pour through a breached mining dyke, threatening wildlife in Spain's Doñana natural park. Page 13

BUSINESS

Reed expands: Reed International has agreed to pay £1 billion for two US legal information companies - the first acquisition since its failed Wolters Kluwer merger.

SPORT

Rugby union: Clive Woodward will name his England party to tour the southern hemisphere on May 12, little more than a fortnight before the players are due to leave.

ARTS

New, improved: David Pountney's wacky English National Opera staging of Purcell's lyrical semi-opera The Fairy Queen gets a fizzing and bawdy revival.

FEATURES

Recovery road: In the final extract from his autobiography, Superman actor Christopher Reeve talks of his belief that he will one day walk again.

CASH IN KINGFISHER

Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive of the Kingfisher Woolworths-to-Comet retail group, has won a pay package of over £1.5 million.

SNOOKER: RONNIE O'SULLIVAN

Within one frame of victory over Alan McManus and a quarter-final match against Jimmy White in the world championship.

DOCTOR'S DILEMMA

London's Bush Theatre presents the UK premiere of David Rabe's play, A Question of Mercy, exploring the moral anguish of euthanasia.

UNSUITABLE

Jason Cowley looks in vain for good service when he goes to buy a suit.

MARKETS

The FTSE 100 fell 141.5 to 5722.4. On the foreign exchange the pound rose 25 cents to \$1.6698 and fell 39 pence to DM2.9834. The pound index rose to 106.0.

CRICKET

Yorkshire beat Derbyshire by 111 runs, their second win in two British Assurance Championship matches. Surrey defeated Warwickshire.

RISEN ANEW

The Leeds-based Phoenix Dance Company brings four ambitious new pieces to the South Bank, including an outstanding premiere by Mark Baldwin.

TRAE STORIES

Prince Philip, sly eyes and China... Michael Shea, former royal press officer, tells the real story.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

INTERFACE: The art of Roger Dean, the Yes man who is inventing a multimedia myth.

HOMES: Science has cracked the dry-rot problem: the Royals can relax. Windsor Castle is safe.

COMPENSATION

Why three accident victims, whose compensation awards were cut by a third, are going to the Lords.

WOMEN BOXERS

There have been defeats, but the legal action is not over.

CONTROLLING THE FUTURE

A 16-page report examines the long-term implications of technology in a variety of fields.

APOLOGIES ARE THE TOOL OF THE PROPAGANDIST

Not the historian: hence the term 'apologies'. But in the case of the British mandatory government and Zionism the record should be clear to all and the verdict unambiguous: No apology is required.

TV LISTINGS

Preview: A drama about the First World War stars Gary Mavers of Peak Practice (The Unknown Soldier, ITV, 9pm). Review: Joe Joseph is unconverted by Dr Paisley, I Presume.....Pages 50, 51

OPINION

One year on

If Tony Blair is still struggling to define an overarching ideology for his Government, the Opposition is having a harder time.....Page 19

Blackshirt alert

With the dramatic results of the Saxony-Anhalt state election, 'Weimar' is back in the shorthand of the political lexicon.....Page 19

The panda problem

The science of conservation cannot afford to look only to instantaneous solutions. It must lay down its strategies for at least the next 100 years.....Page 19

COLUMNS

LIBBY PURVES

Broadsheets like to get very snooty about mob rage and tabloid hysteria, but sometimes the mob has the right instinct. Mary Bell, reformed or not, should never have been paid anything for her disclosures about the killing of two small boys thirty years ago.....Page 18

TIM HAMES

Netanyahu can, ultimately, resist Israeli intellectuals, the Clinton Administration, and international opinion with confidence.....Page 18

ALASTAIR BRETT

The Lord Chancellor's Department appears unaware of the damage that could be done to the Fourth Estate if the no-win, no-fee proposals are extended to libel actions.....Page 18

PETER RIDDELL

One of the silliest political slogans of the past year has been to describe the record phalanx of female Labour MPs elected a year ago as 'Blair's Babes'.....Page 8

OBITUARIES

Donald Findlay, expert on church architecture; Lady Byers, former chairman of the Anglo-Israel Association; Professor Mary Warner, mathematician; Sir John Knill, Bl canal enthusiast.....Page 21

LETTERS

Exploitation of Diana, Princess of Wales; fraud in the NHS; World Book Day.....Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,777

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS: 1 Landscapist to improve on skill with autumn colour (10,5). 9 Gain backing for court case as one versed in Latin (9). 10 One person in company was a speculator, we hear (5). 11 Noted blue flower (6). 12 Free beer outside making us more cheerful (8). 13 Highlander's Alpine trip (6). 15 Starry team - team in Madrid (8). 18 Realise one needs vehicle, with other transport unavailable (5,3). 19 First rhyme, then put into poetry (6). 21 The sonar could be deployed here (5,3). 23 Highest point of curve shown on a page (6). 26 Delightful scene some silly director rejected (5). 27 Tick lists of options about to become important (9). 28 Found out mate on motor yacht is so-called lawyer (2,7,6). DOWN: 1 Smart chap raised by academic in China (7). 2 Almost bite an American nut (5). 3 Pot of ale? (4,5). 4 Put down, face up (4). 5 Start to travel on continent, taking in one island or another (5). 6 Open some booze, and live on it (5). 7 Witty remarks from individuals about Queen, perhaps (3-6). 8 Sign from scorer that old pitch is being reused (7). 14 Rendering beam used in doorway (9). 16 Watch leading batsman's starting performance (3-6). 17 More highly evolved primate found in Kent (8). 18 Establish name in a couple of businesses (7). 20 Lined up to be treated (7). 22 Sweet Shakespearean prince's taken over Eastern state (5). 24 Saying one might be petrified in the garden (5). 25 In the middle of the morning, I start to dress (4).

ROAD AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

UK Weather - All regions 0336 444 9110. Inside M25 0336 401 746. M25 and Link Roads 0336 401 747. National Motorways 0336 401 748. Continental Europe 0336 401 910. Channel crossing 0336 401 388. History to Heathrow & Gatwick airports 0336 407 802.

Weather by Fax

Dial 0336 followed by area number from your fax. UK Country 416 336. N. Ireland 416 341. Wales 416 337. London 416 342. Midlands 416 338. National Satellite 416 339. S. West 416 338. Weather 416 339. Scotland 416 340. Pacific Marine 416 338.

World City Weather

153 destinations world wide. A day forecast. By phone dial 0336 41 1216. By fax (order page) 0336 41 1233.

Motoring

Europe Country by Country 0336 401 882. Europe Fuel costs 0336 401 887. French Motorways 0336 401 882. Support information 0336 401 882. Disneyland Paris 0336 401 882. Le Shuttle 0336 401 882.

Car reports by fax

Dial from your fax handset, you may have to set a port receive mode. AA 0336 416 399.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Poole Dorset, 17C. Lowest day temp: Llewellyn, Shetland, 5C. Highest rainfall: Exeter, Devon, 27.1. Lowest rainfall: Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, 0.5. Highest sunshine: Morecambe, Lancashire, 12.9h.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

FORECAST

General: a cool start for many places, but with plenty of morning sunshine. However, there will be showers along western coasts and all parts may have showers during the afternoon. Parts of northeast Scotland and southeast England may stay dry. Cloud will increase across southwest England during the afternoon. Tonight cloud will continue to thicken across southwest England, with rain soon arriving. By dawn the rain will have reached South Wales and much of southern England. The far southeast, the Midlands, northern England and all of Scotland should stay dry with a few clear spells. London, SE, E England, E Anglia, E & W Midlands: the morning will be mainly sunny, but cloud will increase in the afternoon, bringing a few showers, some heavy. Light southerly wind. Max 16C (61F). Central S England, S & W Wales: sunny spells and scattered showers. Light southerly wind. Max 15C (59F). Channel Isles, SW England: after sunny spells and showers, cloud will increase during the afternoon. Light southerly wind. Max 15C (59F). NW, Central N, NE England, Lake District, Isle of Man, N Ireland: sunny spells, but some showers during the afternoon. Light southerly wind. Max 15C (59F). Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: sunny spells and scattered showers. Light southerly wind. Max 14C (55F). SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll: plenty of sunshine but showers later. Light east to south-east wind. Max 14C (57F). Republic of Ireland: sunny intervals but showers developing inland, heavy or thundery in places. Wind light southerly. Max 14C (57F). Outlook: Scotland will have a mixture of sunshine and scattered showers tomorrow. England and Wales will be unsettled with longer spells of rain in most parts.

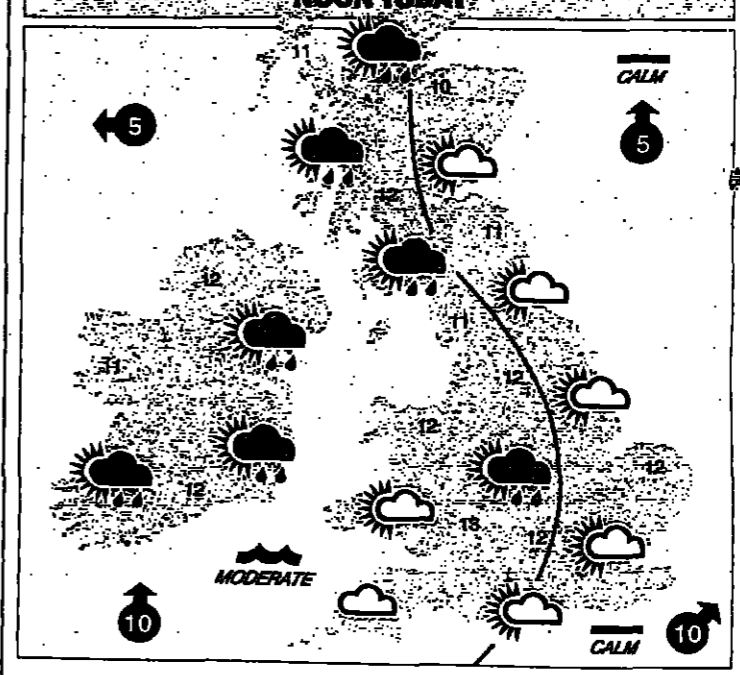
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table with columns: City, Sun, Rain, Cloud, Max, Min, Wind, etc. for various UK locations.

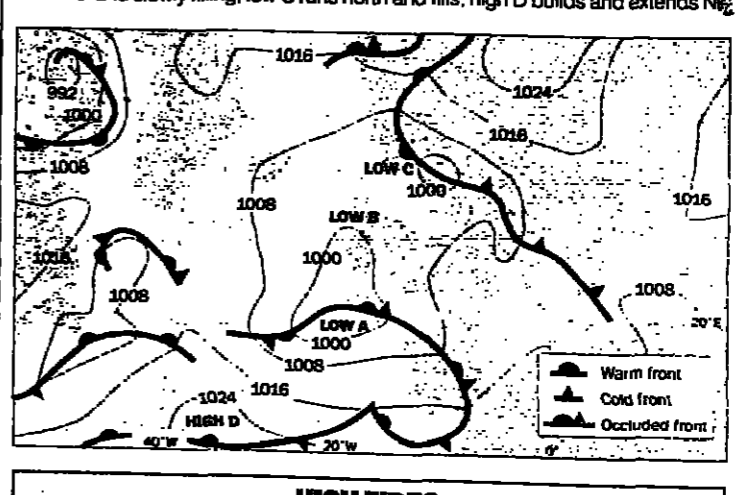
ABROAD

Table with columns: City, Sun, Rain, Cloud, Max, Min, Wind, etc. for various international locations.

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart from noon: lows A and B merge, moving into western English Channel and slowly filling; low C runs north and fills; high D builds and extends NE.



HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing hours of darkness for various UK locations at different times of the day.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring a woman's face and the text 'Think like a man, act like a man of thought'.

THE TIMES

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



BUSINESS Survivor Sorrell reaps rewards of WPP's success PAGE 31



ARTS Richard Cork bids a fond farewell to the Arts Council PAGES 34-36



LAW Losing a big bout but not yet out PAGES 39-41

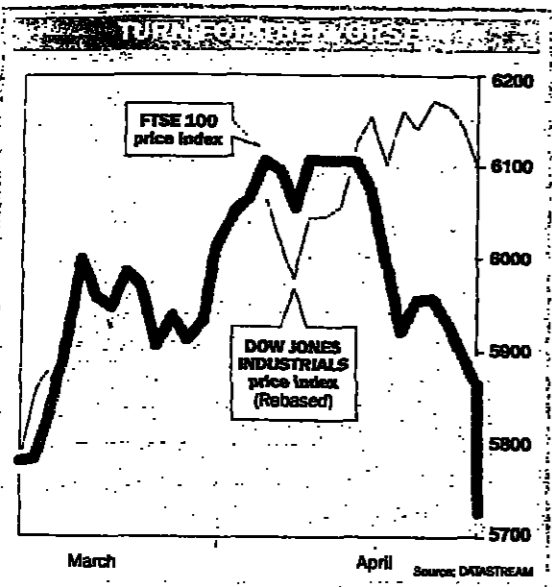
SPORT THE BEST CRICKET COVERAGE 44-52

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY APRIL 28 1998

Fed speculation triggers sell-off in New York and London Markets dive over US rate fear

BY OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK AND ALASDAIR MURRAY IN LONDON



A SHARP fall on Wall Street sent global stock markets into a spin yesterday as speculation mounted that US interest rates are about to rise.

In London, the FTSE 100 closed down 141.5 points, or 2.4 per cent, at 5,722.4 - its lowest for nearly two months.

changed for 12 months, after a quarter-point rise in the inter-bank overnight rate to 5.5 per cent.

problems in Asia will also most likely result in lower inflation in this country and lower interest rates.

sitting tight rather than rushing to sell. The FTSE 250 index also finished with only modest losses of 0.65 per cent.

Siebe offer spells end for Hultman

Reed boosts US position with £1bn acquisitions



Sorrell on course for £4.4m payment

Biotech director 'aware of test fears'

CLAES HULTMAN, the Eurotherm chief executive who was at the centre of revolt by shareholders two years ago, is expected to leave the company after negotiating a £423 million agreed bid by Siebe.

REED ELSEVIER, the publishing and information group, yesterday shrugged off the disappointment of last month's failed merger with Wolters Kluwer by spending \$1.65 billion (£1 billion) to extend its reach in the US legal publishing market.

SHARES in Debenhams recovered 26½p to 374p yesterday after reporting a 16.3 per cent rise in interim profits to £77.1 million.

MARTIN SORRELL, chief executive of WPP, the world's largest marketing services group, is within weeks of collecting the final tranche of his £25 million incentive package, controversially awarded three years ago.

PETER LEWIS, the former research and development director of British Biotech, sold £625,000 worth of shares in the company in March last year - during a period in which he was allegedly being regularly but privately briefed about emerging problems from a key drug trial.

Mulcahy pay hits £1.5m as Kingfisher soars

SIR GEOFFREY MULCAHY, chief executive of the Kingfisher retail group, enjoyed a remuneration package of more than £1.5 million last year.

million in the year before, did not cash in any of his options during last year, and is sitting on a potential £4.3 million at yesterday's share price.

The generous bonuses paid last year were a result of the exceptionally good profits recorded by the group, which also includes Woolworths, Superdrug and Comet.

Advertisement for John Charcol mortgage, featuring a 6.50% fixed rate with 1% cashback and contact information.

Reed not such an ass about the law

COMMENTARY by our City Editor

It would be the easiest thing in the world to accuse Nigel Stapleton and Reed Elsevier of overpaying for their latest round of legal acquisitions in the US and a number of brokers raced to do just that.

The company might understandably have been tempted into extravagance. What better than \$1.65 billion's worth of fat acquisitions in the US to divert attention from last month's ignominious collapse of the enthusiastically trumpeted merger with Wolters Kluwer, the partner with which Reed was going to take on the world?

Potentially blissful partnerships that founder half way down the aisle are no longer rarities: BT and MCI and Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham endured the same embarrassment as Reed. But the notion that the company might be acting on the rebound has been fuelled by the speed with which Reed has come up with its new deal. And it did not help its cause yesterday by being shifty about precisely how much of its \$1.65 billion was going to buying Matthew Bender and how much to the purchase of the 50 per cent of Shepard's, the legal citation business. Reed would only say that Shepard's accounted for less than 20 per cent, but why the cynosure?

Yet there is a compelling argument in favour of Nigel Stapleton's spree, even though "leading name franchises" such

as Moore's Federal Practice, Collier on Bankruptcy or Nimmer on Copyright hardly hold out the promise of ideal bedtime reading.

The single key fact is that: by putting together the analytical jewels of Matthew Bender with the on-line database skills of Lexis-Nexis, for which Reed was also accused of overpaying, the company can compete head on with market leaders Thomson in the largest and most lucrative legal and tax market in the world.

It is an uncomfortable thought but there are more than 900,000 lawyers in the US and no less than 40,000 new ones turn up every year looking for the latest books, CD-Roms and on-line information.

They share a common fear of malpractice suits and need to check with the help of Shepard's, the precedents lying in 51 jurisdictions. Such a frightened captive market should enable a lively Anglo-Dutch company to continue earning decent margins from the business it is buying.

Because of the multiple of 20 times operating profit and the dilutive effect over the next two years it would be prudent to view

yesterday's deals as neutral until some evidence does start to flow that the combination of Lexis-Nexis, Shepard's and Matthew Bender really is better than the sum of its parts — and therefore worth the premium paid. A good lawyer could make a more encouraging case than some analysts were inclined to do. Selling Thomas the Tank Engine and concentrating instead on dry legal texts may not be fun, but it should be lucrative.

Still no need to rush into the euro

Leaks from the Treasury Select Committee suggest some concern over the Government's enthusiasm to take the country into the single currency. If the committee has indeed concluded that the Government's pencilled timetable for joining the euro does not square with the need to evaluate prop-

erly its success, then the members deserve full marks for spotting a certain lack of logic. Both Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have made clear their enthusiasm for Britain to join the single currency early in the next Parliament. Yet the euro does not become reality until next year and it will be several years after that before a measured view can be taken on how it will withstand the vicissitudes of a complete business cycle. Having decided that Britain would not rush in on the first wave, there is no earthly sense in the Government propelling the country in before the success of the project can be properly judged.

There would be no conflict between the committee urging restraint on this point while also demanding that the Government encourage its own operations and British business to prepare efficiently for dealing with the new European currency. But the omens for the euro are

hardly encouraging. The dispute over who should preside over the European Central Bank is turning into a farce. It seems that even the peace-making skills of Mr Blair, able to make strides in Northern Ireland and the Middle East, have failed to find a settlement between the conflicting ideas of the Germans and the French. With the Germans supporting Wim Duisenberg and the French adamant, as ever, that the job should go to their man, in this case Jean-Claude Trichet, the Blair proposal for dividing the eight-year term between the two might be seen to have appeal. But apparently neither side will compromise, an attitude that hardly bodes well for those who are committed to joining the single currency.

As the dispute goes on, European markets are becoming increasingly edgy. Mere mention of a US Federal Reserve member's view that interest rates there must rise was enough to

scuttle share prices. If the Bank of England decides to speed up publication of minutes of its Monetary Policy Committee, it should encourage the Fed to take similar, leak-avoiding action.

Sears prepares to disappoint

Today we will learn what accidents beset Sears in its last financial year. Those masochists who continue to follow the company are braced for some dismal figures, but Sears rarely fails to disappoint.

The real horrors will probably not be instantly apparent. Do not forget that this is the company that blatantly proclaimed in its annual report that it had sold several of its shoe chains to Facia when, as became expensively apparent soon afterwards, this was simply not the case.

Despite that unfortunate incident, and many more, Sir Bob Reid remains chairman of the company whose shares were renowned for being "always a pound" until he and Liam Strong were in charge. Although Strong has gone, the shares now treat 60p as something to aim for. It is the sort of performance that

would probably drive Lord Tebbit to write nasty things in his Sun column, were it not for the fact that he has been a Sears director for the past decade. Investors should have said "on your bikes" years ago.

The latest ruse from the company is to try and disguise the shrinking value by demerging the Selfridges department store business. But despite the sparkling performance unveiled by Debenhams yesterday, a separately quoted Selfridges is not likely to merit a glamour stock rating. A lack of high spending tourists is hitting sales, and qualms that the exotically named Vittorio Raddice may not be the best man to run the department store. Confidence has not been helped by rumours that he may be about to sell the Selfridges Collection catalogue operation just when other retailers are embracing the idea of mail order.

Russian roulette

LORD OWEN'S switch from changing the face of politics (failed) to the rather lesser task of changing the shape of Middlesex Holdings is proving tough. Nearly four months after the year end, he can only caution that profits are "expected to be" significantly down on 1996, itself rather a disappointment. As chairman, he is leading efforts to make Middlesex a force in Russian steel and financial services. Russia seems to be winning.

Debenhams to step up expansion programme

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

DEBENHAMS, the department store business demerged from the Burton Group at the beginning of this year, is accelerating its expansion programme with plans to open or redevelop 16 stores in the next five years, six more than had been expected.

Terry Green, chief executive, yesterday announced stores for Weymouth, Carlisle, Milton Keynes, Oxford, Sunderland, all due to open in 2000, and York, due in 2001. He said that 6,000 jobs — a mixture of full and part-time — would be created by the total of 16 openings.

The new shops, which will add 22 per cent to selling space, will cost the company £235 million which can be funded out of cash flow. Mr Green said that he was still

looking for opportunities to open stores in cities such as Liverpool, Stoke-on-Trent and Bath.

Debenhams also announced three more franchised stores overseas in Dubai, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. It is planning a store in Reykjavik, Iceland, with a new franchise partner and is looking for other opportunities in Europe, the Far East and Latin America. "We're looking for the right partner, deal and location," Mr Green said.

The parts of the existing UK chain that have not already been modernised will be refurbished in the next five years, he said. This will cost about £160 million.

The company, whose shares have suffered in the aftermath of the demerger, defied the

sceptics yesterday by reporting higher than expected first-half profits. Pre-tax profits for the 26 weeks to February 28 were £77.1 million, an increase of 16.3 per cent. Sales were 7.8 per cent higher at £770.2 million, up 5.3 per cent excluding new space.

Capital expenditure reached £35 million in the first half and is expected to total approximately £100 million for the full year.

Debenhams, which has concentrated in recent years on developing its own brands, is adding more designer label goods to its shelves. Jasper Conran, who already designs clothing for the chain, is also going to design a range of goods for the home. Oswald Boateng is to design an exclusive menswear range while

Eric Van Peterson will design women's accessories.

The company would not give current trading figures, but said: "Despite testing conditions on the high street at the moment, current trading is in line with expectations, which we view with cautious optimism."

Earnings per share were 13.8p, up 17.4 per cent, and the company will pay an interim dividend of 3.9p on July 1.

The shares, which hit their low of 33.8p on Friday, rose 26.5p to 37.4p. Arcadia, the other half of the old Burton Group, which includes Dorothy Perkins, Principles, Top Shop, Top Man and Evans, is also going to report its interim results on Thursday.

Tempus, page 30

CU to buy into US Midwest

COMMERCIAL UNION announced yesterday that it is to buy Farmers Union Acquisition Corporation in the US for \$118 million (about £71 million), it was announced yesterday (Marianne Curphey writes).

FUAC, a holding company whose main subsidiary is National Farmers Union, specialises in agricultural business in 12 Midwest states.

In 1997, NFU had net written premiums of \$118 million and produced a pre-tax operating profit of \$11 million.

The UK composite also said that its proposed merger with General Acquisition was progressing well. Peter Foster, finance director of the CU Group, said: "We hope we will complete the process by June."

Writers oppose Random deal

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

THE \$1.4 billion (£800 million) acquisition of Random House, the largest US publisher, by Bertelsmann, the German media group, is being opposed by writers over anti-trust fears.

The Authors Guild, the powerful US writers union, filed a motion with the Federal Trade Commission to block the takeover. A preliminary decision is expected this week.

The guild claimed that Bertelsmann would have a market share of 36 per cent in the \$10 billion US general books market.

Bertelsmann already owns Bantam Doubleday Dell, a US publisher with a 12 per cent market share. Advance Publications, owned by S.I. Newhouse, last month agreed to sell Random House, publisher of some of America's most acclaimed and successful authors, including Norman Mailer and John Grisham, to Bertelsmann, making it the world's largest publisher of English-language general books.

Paul Akin, an Authors Guild spokesman, said: "This merger would lead to an unprecedented market concentration in the adult trade book sector. It would result in a lack of competition. Publishers would have little incentive to find new authors. This merger means less variety, more emphasis on bestsellers and celebrity books."

A Federal Trade Commission spokesman said the complaint was taken very seriously.

Bertelsmann rejected the anti-trust complaint and said its market share was lower than the 36 per cent quoted by the Authors Guild.

Rio Tinto investors lose nerve

SHARES in Rio Tinto slid back yesterday after the company produced good first-quarter output figures. The shares fell 38p to 855p as investors lost their nerve after a strong rally (Carl Morrison writes).

Rio said that production had risen in all its main commodities, with copper up 7 per cent on the last quarter of 1997, a gain of 5 per cent year on year. Rio said that most of the gain was from its investment in expanding the Indonesian Grasberg copper mine.

Output from the Kennecott copper smelter in Utah rose from 22,000 tonnes in the first quarter of 1997 to 52,300 tonnes in this year's first quarter. However, gold production fell because of lower grades.

Tempus, page 30

Maiden to pay £15m for Adlight

By KATHY LIPARI

MAIDEN GROUP, the UK outdoor advertising company, yesterday announced the acquisition of Adlight, the super-market advertising panel group, for £15 million.

Ron Zeghibe, chief executive, said the purchase was unlikely to increase pre-tax profits for 1998 but would generate enough to cover restructuring and investment costs for the year. Mr Zeghibe said that he expected Adlight to contribute £2 million to pre-tax profits in 1998. Cost savings from the deal would be about £500,000 a year.

The acquisition will be funded through a £13.7 million redeemable loan note issue and £1.3 million in cash.

Adlight has about 3,200 six-sheet point-of-sale advertising panels in supermarkets to add to Maiden's current network of 1,500 through its concession with Safeway.

Adlight, which has until now been run by Keith Smith, the London poster advertising executive, had planned to build a further 600 panels during 1998.

Mr Zeghibe said: "This deal will give us critical mass, nationwide coverage and a real hook to offer advertisers."

The merged company would give advertisers access to 60 per cent of all UK shoppers, Mr Zeghibe said.

Adlight posted pre-tax profits before exceptional items of £540,000 on turnover of £3.8 million in 1997.

Maiden shares fell 1p to 460p yesterday.



Dyed in the wool: Luciano Benetton, president of Benetton

Benetton looks to gain from strong sterling

BENETTON, the Italian fashion group, is planning to make the most of the advantage given it by the strength of the pound against the lira by expanding its UK business (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Carlo Gilardi, managing director of the Benetton Group, said "We can maintain our prices and enlarge our market share."

Benetton has 120 shops in the UK, including its largest store, the 16,000 sq m megastore at Oxford Circus.

JWE settles on 103p share price

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

JWE TELECOM, a mobile telephone company based in Yorkshire, which is floating on the Stock Exchange, yesterday announced a placing price of 103p a share, capitalising the company at £19.95 million.

The price represents a multiple of 11.17 times on the basis of estimated earnings per share of 6p for the year to March 31.

The flotation will make John Weatherill, the company's 55-year-old founder and major shareholder a multimillionaire.

JWE sells mobile phones and airtime as well as installing and repairing handsets. The group distributes mobile phones as a wholesaler to about 300 dealers and is a reseller through a chain of 21 business centres and high street shops.

In the nine months to December 31 it had pre-tax profits £1 million on a turnover of £13.35 million.

The flotation will raise £4 million to fund the opening of a further 10 JWE Business Centres and 10 JWE Phone-shops over the next 18 months.

Mr Weatherill, who founded the company in 1982 after a career in electronic component sales, said flotation would provide the funds "to consolidate our market position and to pursue opportunities to grow the business both organically and by acquisition".

Direct Line relies on Novell networking solutions because over 2 million customers rely on Direct Line

No-one knows networks like Novell

Tony Covelli, Direct Line's Principal PC/LAN Analyst says: "Being an industry leader, we naturally went to the world's leading network provider." Direct Line is growing its business with Novell's IntraNetWare, and it is now beginning to implement ZenWorks and ManageWise. The result: improved access to information, improved customer service and a highly successful organisation. What are you saying about Novell?

To find out how the world's leading provider of network solutions can benefit your business, call 01344 724 100 or visit www.novell.com/uk

New line for Thomas the Tank Engine

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

THE Brit Allcroft Company, the producer, distributor and licensor of children's entertainment characters, yesterday bought the underlying licences for its hottest property, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, from Reed Elsevier in a £15.5 million deal.

Brit Allcroft already has exclusive worldwide television, video and merchandising rights in the Thomas series until 2011. Yesterday's deal will keep it in business with Thomas beyond 2011, lead to savings in merchandising and royalty payments and add feature film, audio, theatrical and new media rights.

"The acquisition gives the company the long-term control of one of the best known children's brands in the world," Roger Llewellyn, Brit Allcroft chairman.

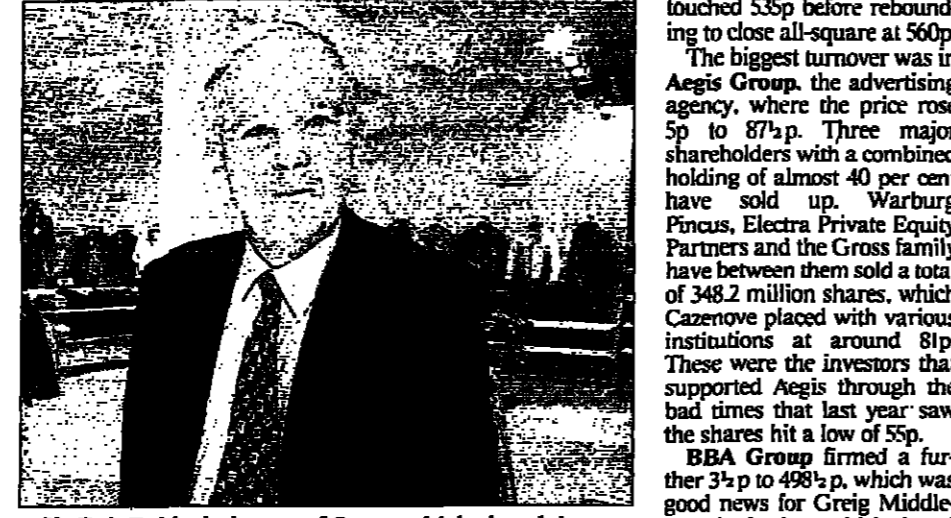
In a simultaneous deal, Brit Allcroft is licensing to Egmont, the international children's publisher, the book publishing rights to Thomas outside the Americas and the Philippines. Egmont is buying the rest of Reed Children's Books for an undisclosed sum.

Brit Allcroft will finance its acquisition

AY APRIL 28 1998
UNDUP
n brings
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NHP
disciplined
millionaires
staff
mandate
extended
structure

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Wall Street leads world markets into a tailspin



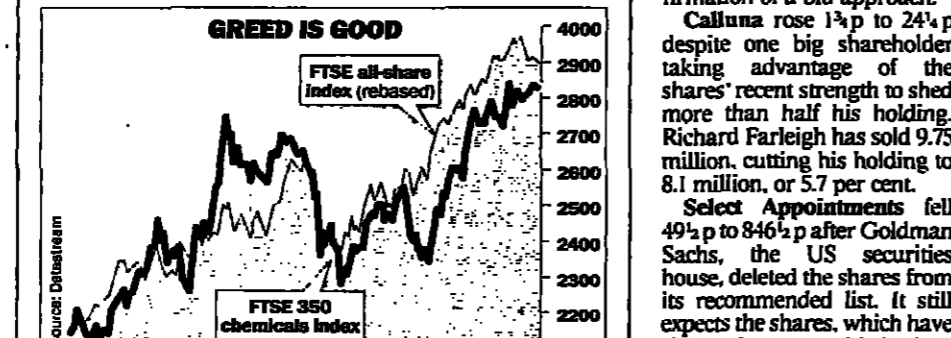
SHARE prices around the world fell sharply yesterday. The prospect of a rise in US interest rates and continuing economic gloom in the Far East had investors on the run.

Sir Bob Reid, chairman of Sears, which closed down 2 1/2 p at 55 1/2 p yesterday ahead of results today...

The FTSE 100 index managed to close off the bottom, but still ended down 141.5, at 5,722.4.

ary, with the price rising 26 1/2 p to 374p. The rival brokers Panmure Gordon and Credit Suisse First Boston both rate the shares a "buy".

likely to flush out third party interest," he said. Recent deals such as ICI's bid for Unilever's specialty chemicals business...



MAJOR INDICES: New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, etc.

RECENT ISSUES: AB Airlines, Aberdeen City, Advent 2 VCT, etc.

MAJOR CHANGES: Guinness Plc, Mon Oil & Gas, etc.

RISES: Eurotherm, etc. FALLS: Danka Bus Systems, etc.

TEMPUS Sound engineering. SIEBE £423 million bid for Eurotherm. Share price yesterday. Siebe is offering nearly twice Eurotherm's 1997 sales.

Debenhams AHEAD OF THE BURTON split, Debenhams was considered the strongest single element in the group. However, while Arcadia...

Rio Tinto RIO TINTO must have felt a touch bruised yesterday as the market snubbed its production growth figures. However, Rio cannot complain if investors look beyond the company and see a growing mountain of copper, gold and coal that needs to be shifted before mining companies have any cause to celebrate.

LIFFE: COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR, MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION.

COMMODITIES: ICIS-LOR (London 600ppm), GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES, RUBBER, etc.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES: Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, Five Year Gilt, etc.

DOLLAR RATES: Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, etc.

LIFFE OPTIONS: COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR, MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE: Nickel, Copper, Zinc, Lead, Tin, etc.

MONEY RATES (%): Prime Bank Bills, Sterling Money Rates, Overnight, etc.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%): Currency, 7 day, 1 month, 3 month, 6 month, Call.

FTSE VOLUMES: ASIA, ASIA P, ASIA S, ASIA T, ASIA U, ASIA V, ASIA W, ASIA X, ASIA Y, ASIA Z.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co): Bullion, Platinum, Silver, Palladium. STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES: Mkt Rates for April 27, etc.

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page.

Liaison team strives to bring Tories out of the shadows

Politicians love anniversaries almost as much as their own birthdays. Whether it be a hundred-day, one-year or five-year landmark, anniversaries are always a wonderful excuse to escape the usual daily political grind, throw a good celebratory bash and revel in a spate of unusually considered newspaper assessments about their own fine work.

With May 1 looming, Tony Blair has been busy behaving rather like a championship-chasing football manager — taking every opportunity to mutter platitudes about avoiding complacency in an attempt to keep his team on their toes. Despite the Prime Minister's best efforts, you can bet it is going to be hard to wipe the smug grins off the faces of Labour MPs.

For the Conservatives, May 1 is a day they would rather forget. If the Labour landslide left the party with a mountain to climb to regain power, the peak is looking no less intimidating 12 months on. The

Tories have not had the happiest introduction to the arts of opposition — nowhere more apparent than on its previous home ground of business and economic policy. William Hague installed two supposed heavyweights, Peter Lilley and John Redwood, to shadow the Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry, but neither has yet succeeded in striking a substantial blow.

Mr Lilley faces the unenviable task of shadowing the hyperactive Treasury, but appears to be one of those former ministers who is uncomfortable with the more prosaic role of opposition spokesman. His responses to Gordon Brown's two Budgets and the radical overhaul of the monetary policy framework have been inauspicious, his pronouncements overshadowed by Malcolm Bruce, the opposition-hardened LibDem spokesman. Mr Lilley has recently attempted to get his teeth into the Treasury over the strong pound, but his attacks

appear to carry little weight, given that the two touted solutions — raising consumer taxation or joining the single currency — are clearly anathema to his party.

John Redwood, the Shadow President of the Board of Trade, has fared a little better. His almost daily bombardments have ensured a few direct hits on the DTI, causing a long uncomfortable first summer in politics for Lord Simon of Highbury. However, his fierce euro-scepticism has prompted the demise of many of the old-guard Tory business-politicians who have severed the traditional links. More specifically, the Conservatives' increasing euro-

BUSINESS OF POLITICS



ALASDAIR MURRAY

Boswell et al — they have been distinguished only by their anonymity. It is in an attempt to try to fill this vacuum that the Conservatives have created a four-strong business liaison unit based out of Central Office and headed by Charles Hendry, the former MP for High Peak, who served briefly as Mr Hague's chief of staff.

There was a time when the Tories knew instinctively what business was thinking, but Labour's successful cultivation of its private sector links and the demise of many of the old-guard Tory business-politicians who have severed the traditional links. More specifically, the Conservatives' increasing euro-

scepticism has prompted tensions with the europhile elements of big business, as well as previously Conservative-leaning organisations such as the Confederation of British Industry.

The unit's first task has been to send William Hague on an "eggs and bacon" offensive at a series of breakfast meetings with industry leaders. It is a campaign reminiscent of the famous prawn cocktail round of meetings John Smith held with City and industry leaders, which laid the foundations for Labour's improved relations with the business world. The unit has also been taking regular soundings from businesses ahead of Commons votes on economic and industrial issues.

But improved communication on its own will not sharpen Tony's opposition skills. Labour's successful last few years in opposition were based on a double strategy. There were some highly populist campaigns — most noticeably the crusade

against utility "fat-cat" pay deals. Equally, Labour's frontbenches prepared a substantial raft of policy, offering industry a more coherent critique of the Government's approach to business and economics, and proving they could offer a credible alternative. For the moment these two weapons are absent from the Conservative armoury. Mr Hendry rightly argues that it takes time to build a serious policy case. However, to stand any chance of wooing back the business vote, the Tories badly need to start chipping away now at the Treasury's and DTI's substantial self-confidence. As long as it seems clear that Labour maintains political ascendancy, the Conservatives will find it difficult to win more than lukewarm support. If the liaison unit and frontbench teams cannot improve the opposition performance over the next 12 months, polite conversation over breakfast will be all Mr Hague will celebrate for many years to come.

Boring little clerk survives brilliantly where others fall

Jon Ashworth finds little of the fat cat about Martin Sorrell in spite of the success of WPP

One Sunday in the summer of 1990, Martin Sorrell turned up at the Oxfordshire mansion of Victor Blank, the former Charterhouse chairman, for one of those charity cricket days, in which businessmen and celebrities convene to do battle. He scored six runs before being run out — bettering Sir David Frost and Sir Alistair Grant, who failed to score. Sorrell looked a picture of contentment.

A few short months later, many of those same businessmen and celebrities were eager to distance themselves from Sorrell. WPP, which he had built in five break-neck years into the world's biggest media services group, was fast heading the same way as Brent Walker and British & Commonwealth. A profits warning in November 1990 saw WPP shares fall 66 per cent in four days, and made administration or receivership an all too real possibility.

All that, of course, is history. WPP survived its dark spell to emerge stronger than ever, proving that at least one Eighties near-disaster could come through. Sorrell, 53, is still around where the John Gurns and John Ashcrofts are not. Very well paid by any standards, he is soon to collect the final tranche of WPP shares due under a controversial incentive scheme, voted through in June 1995. He will be left with a stake in WPP worth between 1 and 2 per cent — perhaps £25 million.

Sorrell, in the mould of Sir Tim Bell, is an old boy of Saatchi & Saatchi, where he worked as finance director in the early 1980s before branching out on his own. In May 1985 he bought a shell company, Wire & Plastic Products, and set about creating a marketing services empire. Once known for making supermarket trolleys and hamster wheels, WPP was soon among the most feared names on Madison Avenue.

In 1987 WPP paid £351 million for JWT, parent of J Walter Thompson, the US advertising group. In May 1989 it paid £438 million for Ogilvy & Mather — a figure which, with hindsight, was clearly over the top. The buying spree left WPP saddled with debt which topped £300 million, just as recession began to bite and companies began cutting back on their marketing spend.

Hence the events of November 1990. WPP shares, which peaked at



Martin Sorrell is content to carry on with work, punctuated by trips to the Connaught or Savoy

933p two years earlier, hit 115p a share before the dust settled. A \$1 billion (£599,000) refinancing was agreed with the banks the following April. With the UK and America in the grip of recession, Sorrell saw what meagre cashflow he could generate being channelled into debt repayment. It was a gloomy scenario. Then, after a suitable pause, came the Capital Investment Plan (CIP), unveiled in June 1995. The CIP proposed to hand Sorrell shares in WPP worth up to £35 million if certain performance triggers were hit. There would be four

tranches of 1.173 million WPP shares each. To qualify, the WPP share price had to remain above each trigger for 60 days. Increases in earnings per share were factored in. Sorrell invested £2.2 million of his own money in the scheme.

While it looked ambitious at the time, the rise in the value of the WPP shares has more than delivered. Sorrell's fourth and final tranche is likely to pay out next month, provided the shares stay above 304p. They proved resilient yesterday, falling just 6½p to 374p in a sharply falling market.

The first and second tranches paid out as planned, but the third was missed by a whisker. In October 1997, on the last day of the stipulated 60 days, a general fall in stock markets induced by wobbles in Asia knocked WPP shares below the 265p trigger.

The scheme was greeted with consternation, but WPP insisted there was no free handout. Duly motivated — and helped, of course, by good timing and a rampant stock market — WPP's market value has soared from £840 million to £2.8 billion. Operating margins, 5.6 per cent in

1992, had increased to 11.3 per cent by 1997, and are heading for 14 per cent within two years.

Average net debt, which peaked at more than £450 million, was down to £115 million by 1997, and had slipped below £100 million by the first quarter of 1998. Freed up from restrictive debt repayments, WPP intends to spend about £50 million this year buying in 2 to 3 per cent of its share capital for cancellation. It is all a far cry from the events of seven years ago.

Anyone looking for signs of "fat cat" excess from Sorrell are in for a disappointment. He cannot sell the rump of his WPP shares until September 1999 at the earliest, and has indicated that he intends to retain a long-term stake. He is very well remunerated, earning a basic salary of \$750,000 (£450,000), payable in the UK and America. He can receive as much again under a short-term incentive scheme, although it paid out "only" 90 per cent last year, or another £400,000 or so. Then there are the usual pension entitlements and benefits.

But this is where it stops. There are no Rolls-Royces or corporate jets. There is no lavish patronage of the arts. Sorrell seems content to carry on working, punctuated by regular trips to the Connaught or the Savoy. Home is a house close to Hampstead Heath, North London, which he shares with his wife, Sandra. There is a "modest" house in the South of France. Transport is via a chauffeur-driven Ford Scorpio (Ford is an important WPP client).

Born into a prosperous Jewish family, Sorrell was educated at Haberdashers' Aske's School, and attended Christ's College, Cambridge and Harvard Business School. He worked in America for a consultant, Glendinning Associates, before signing up with Mark McCormack, the sports promoter. He later went to work for the late Sir James Gulliver, before joining Saatchi & Saatchi.

During the Eighties, Sorrell was content to describe himself dismissively as a "dull, boring, little clerk". He elaborated in a recent interview, saying: "I am someone who is very interested in the detail of running a business. I take it as a compliment to be described as a micro-manager." He works a 12-hour day, arriving at his office in the West End of London just after 7am, but is far from a recluse. Breakfasting and cricket aside, he is as likely to be found on Concordo, making one of his monthly visits to America. He spends about 40 per cent of his time abroad.

Sorrell would appear to have learnt from the experiences that brought WPP so close to disaster. Paul Richardson, the WPP finance director, says one of WPP's priorities is to "weather the next recession, when it comes". Ten years ago, the talk was of ever-greater borrowing to fund expansion — and the banks were happy to play along. Things are different today.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Benchmarking offers chance of real way forward for financial products

From Group Chief Executive, Direct Line Group Limited. Sir, It is quite wrong to dismiss out of hand the benefits which benchmarking of financial products could bring to consumers (Flying a kite over benchmarking, Commentary, April 18).

For too long, pensions and other savings products have been shrouded in needless mystery which only serves to obscure some of the real consumer issues. Under a blanket of fog, we have seen high charges, penalties and a lack of flexibility come to typify far too much of the existing provision. The result is an apparent lack of simple, flexible, transparent and attractive financial products for the majority.

Surely the lesson from the mis-selling scandal must be that regulation which focuses

almost exclusively on process rather than product is flawed. For this, and many other reasons, benchmarking offers a chance for a real way forward. Requiring all those offering pensions and other savings products to meet basic rules over charges, penalties and flexibility could help to re-engineer the whole industry in the consumer interest — and not before time.

Undoubtedly benchmarking will have its opponents. There are vested interests which benefit from the status quo. But we should not confuse their squeals for genuine concern.

Yours faithfully, IAN H. CHIPPENDALE, Group Chief Executive, Direct Line Group Limited, Direct Line House, 3 Eldridge Road, Croydon, CR9 1AG.

Older unemployed need help in finding work

From Mr Richard Worsley. Sir, Your recognition (Janet Bush, April 22) of the need for unemployment measures for the over 50s and of the alarming growth in the number of older people who are "economically inactive" is welcome — especially as perceptions persist that priority is being given to measures that can be presented as new, young and cool.

It does not, however, follow, as your article suggests, that assistance to older people without jobs should take the form of an extension of the New Deal — which so far has been addressed only to those who are registered unemployed.

Older people who are classified as economically inactive (and not therefore on the official register of unemployed people claiming benefit) are mostly in that situation because they feel they are just banging their heads against a brick wall and have become totally discouraged. There is

plenty of experience in providing help to break out of that situation — but it needs more support from the Government. The needs of such people are no less than those who are registered as unemployed. Although success in the task of helping them will not lead to reductions in headline unemployment, I hope that this will not deter the Government from taking action.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD WORSLEY, Director, The Carnegie Third Age Programme, PO Box 160, Burnham Norton, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE31 8GA.

Letters to the *The Times* Business section may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5112 or by e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk Letters should carry a daytime phone number.

It'll never fly

AN UPSET member of the Institute of Directors rings. He wishes to remain anonymous, understandable given the awesome reputation of the employers federation's internal security apparatus and their habit of meeting out summary justice to those who do not toe the line on Europe. But I am sent a copy of the latest *IoD* News, which contains a pull-out briefing paper setting out all you need to know about EMU. Or rather not, because although there is plenty

of argument about EMU, predictably one-sided, there is not much about what it will mean to members. My informant points out that some measures, to do with accounting in multiple currencies and directors' responsibility to do so, will become law from the start of next year, and this would be more helpful than yet another debate. The *IoD* says such complaints should have been submitted to head office to be dealt with by the above security apparatus rather than banded about in the press. "There isn't enough information for people to decide whether or not we should be in it [EMU]," says a spokeswoman. (True, but only if you happen to inhabit the next but one star system.) "We advise our members on things that are necessary as we see fit."

ON A personal note, I shall miss Eurotherm, the maker of dull but no doubt fine temperature control equipment swallowed by engineer Siebe. This is because it was the first company whose figures I reported on, one fine spring morning some time in the late Pleistocene. But I marvel at the sum Siebe is paying. The offer, said yesterday's announcement, is "valuing each Eurotherm share at approximately £439 million." The



company blamed its adviser, Morgan Stanley, which, I suppose, is what one hires advisers for.

Double entry

AN INVITATION to the launch of Coopers & Lybrand's *Big Change: a roadmap for corporate transformation*. This is by Paul Taffinder, director of Transformation Change Management at Coopers' management consulting arm, and I am sure it is fascinating. No, I am not prepared to perjure myself any more just to be nice; I imagine it is almost unreadable. The point is that Price Waterhouse, shortly to merge with Coopers, recently held a launch party

for its own management book, *Straight from the CEO*.

A clever consultant could identify a clear cost saving: just the one party. Better still, one dust-jacket, as these books tend to be largely indistinguishable. There is another from the accountants here — *Blur: the speed of change in the connected economy*, from the Ernst & Young Center (sic) for Business Innovation. Does anyone — but anyone — read them?

"BECAUSE console hardware is now leapfrog technology, the historic feast and famine nature of the industry should be very much muted." No, don't ask me what it means. It comes from a note on *Electronics Boutique* from Tim Steer at Merrill Lynch, published on April 14. Now read this, from a note by Penny Freer at Credit Lyonnaise Securities, on April 15: "This leapfrog technology has significantly muted the feast and famine nature of the industry."

ring Freer, who is cheerfully unrepentant. "It's not quite the same words. It's very good, isn't it, don't you think?" This was the company's own summary of the market in computer games, she claims, and both analysts recycled them.

Memory jog

WHEN Bob Mendelsohn arrived at Royal and SunAlliance as chief executive to replace those two who

couldn't stand each other and shared a £1.6 million windfall as a result, he arrived trailing clouds of glory. He was the man who got Clinton elected. (Well, all right, not glory, then, but it was a difficult job.) Also, there had been a transatlantic garble; he hadn't run President Clinton's campaign.

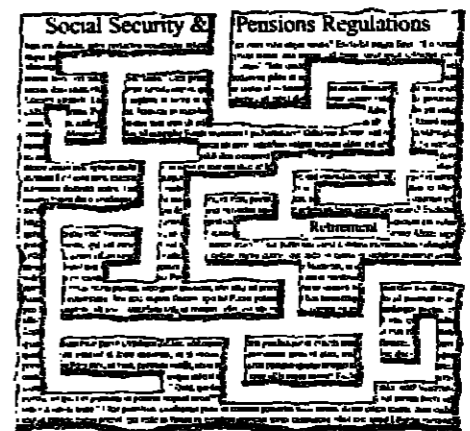
Both are devotees of the deplorable American cult of jogging, and he had run with Clinton, a friend, during the campaign. Jogging with American presidents has its perils, though. Jimmy Carter once returned from a run terrified, to report that he had been attacked by a rabbit.

MARTIN WALLER



A run down memory lane with Clinton for Bob Mendelsohn

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"I want something powerful enough to stop a VW nipping in front"

Equities and bonds sharply lower

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including Alcoholic Beverages, Banks, Breweries, Pubs & Rest, Building Materials, Chemicals, Construction, Diverse Industrials, Engineering, Vehicles, Food Manufacturers, Healthcare, Household Goods & Text, Insurance, and Distributors.

Table of stock prices for Investment Trusts, Engineering, Vehicles, and Food Manufacturers.

Table of stock prices for Food Manufacturers, Healthcare, and Household Goods & Text.

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Advertisement for First Direct bank, featuring the text 'why not first direct bank for free?' and '0800 24 24 24'.

Table of stock prices for Mining, Oil & Gas, and other sectors.

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Advertisement for British Funds, featuring the text 'BRITISH FUNDS' and 'INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of 3% 3%'.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: 'سكزا من الاصل'

Table of unit trust prices for the first column, including various fund names and their corresponding prices.

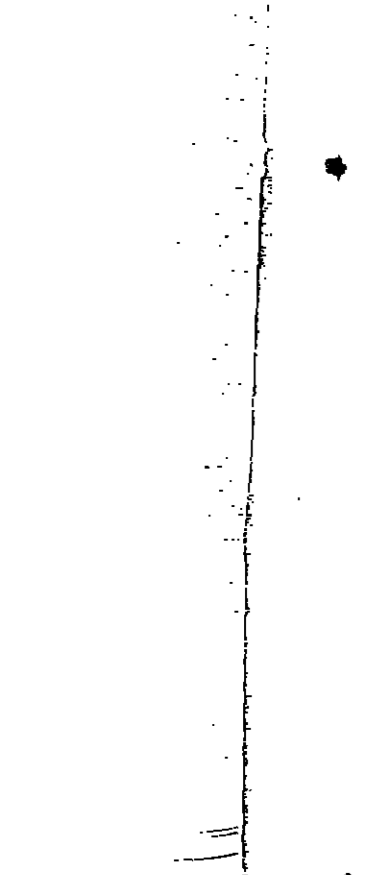
Table of unit trust prices for the second column, including various fund names and their corresponding prices.

Table of unit trust prices for the third column, including various fund names and their corresponding prices.

Table of unit trust prices for the fourth column, including various fund names and their corresponding prices.

Advertisement for Chanel 'Le Temps' watch, featuring an image of the watch and descriptive text.

Vertical text on the left margin, possibly a sidebar or advertisement, partially obscured.



Vertical text on the left margin, possibly a sidebar or advertisement, partially obscured.

Purcell's new magical ingredients

David Pountney's wacky English National Opera staging of *The Fairy Queen* certainly wasn't the most reverentially "authentic" celebration of Purcell's tercentenary when it was new in 1995, but it took first prize for entertainment. Less an interpretation of Purcell's 1692 semi-opera than a lusty visual fantasia upon the notes that Purcell wrote, it comes over, in this fizzing revival by Quinny Sacks, as a wry but affectionate caricature of English eccentricity — then, now, and probably for ever.

Ditching the bowdlerised prose version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with which Purcell was lumbered, Pountney recreates the story of warring fairies and confused lovers as an epoch-hopping satirical romp that throws in everything, including the kitchen-sink (or at least the exploding washing machine). There are sexual couplings and triplings of all hues — and not a few Dicks. Dunya Ramkova's costumes range from punk to Edwardian. Cross-dressing is hilariously rife. Robert Israel's surreal sets are similarly eclectic and inspired: only an excursion to Maoist China seems inappropriate.

Perhaps in style, Pountney's staging owes more to pantio, *Idolste* and *Monty Python* than to the Restoration wits, but in spirit it is thoroughly attuned to that bawdy, hedonistic age. And Pountney does have the sense and sensibility occasionally to halt this very-merry-go-round — as in the haunting *If Love's a Sweet Passion* — and allow Purcell's bitersweet melodies to hint, if only momentarily, at deeper and darker emotions. After all, an undercurrent of emotional sadism drives the whole plot of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*: and, even in this burlesque version, pain precedes reconciliation for most of the characters.

That Sacks, the choreographer of the original production, should be entrusted with the whole revival this time is

The Fairy Queen Coliseum

entirely right, because the dance element — fresh, athletic and witty — is given equal prominence to the singing. In fact, the two casts work hand-in-glove. Thomas Randle, for instance, not only sings Oberon with petulant spite, but swings around the parallel bars with sufficient muscularity to complement the fabulously lithe dancing of Simon Rice's Puck. Time and again this sparky mélange of hoofers and crooners seems more Broadway than Baroque, and that's fine with me.

Vocally the evening is properly dominated by Yvonne Kenny as an imperious Titania who drops her dignity (and much else) to luscious effect in the presence of chaps dressed as donkeys. Perhaps her silvery tone tipped towards stridency in her sublime *Plaint* aria, but she was magnificent in *Hark! The Echoing Air*. Mark Richardson was gloriously world-weary as a misanthropic Theseus and a reluctant Hymen; Mary Hegarty and Janis Kelly strutted and trilled delightfully as Titania's showgirl fairies; and Jonathan Best's splendidly lurching Drunken Poet wooed Christopher Robson's repressed Dick with a touching mixture of knockabout fun and boozy melancholia.

In the pit, Nicholas Kok sometimes favoured a smooth sensuality, both in string sound and chorus work, where the music seemed to cry out for airiness and bounce. But his speeds were well chosen and his pit-band mixture of Baroque specialists and ENO regulars was effective. Best of all, he was sensitive to the phrasing of his singers, as they revealed afresh the lyrical genius that is as affecting today as it must have seemed to London theatregoers three centuries ago.

RICHARD MORRISON



The lithe Simon Rice (Puck) and muscular Thomas Randle (Oberon) in Quinny Sacks's fizzing — and bawdy — revival of Purcell's *The Fairy Queen*

On to a new plane

TWENTY years ago Brian Eno composed *Music for Airports*, a seminal work which launched the concept of ambient music. But the composition had never been performed in the environment for which it was written — until now. A new recording due for release next month by the avant-garde New York ensemble Bang On A Can provided the unlikely but perfect opportunity for its authentic airport debut in the check-in hall at Stansted.

The eight-strong ensemble performed the work in four movements to a mixture of indifference, amusement and some considerable pleasure among the Friday afternoon fliers and airport workers. The work's floating sound lacked even the hint of a pulse or beat, but it had an insidious tonality that permeated every nook and cranny of the concourse. Miraculously, the work also seemed to soak up and absorb

POP Brian Eno/ Bang On A Can Stansted Airport

all the other sounds of the airport. When a Tannoy announcement summoned Amelia Braithwaite to the information desk, it fitted so perfectly that for a moment one wondered whether she was part of Eno's score. The sound of luggage trolleys, crying children and echoing footsteps were also effortlessly assimilated into the music.

At the start Eno had asked us to feel free to move around and chat among ourselves, thus contributing our own ambience. But turning this deliberately accidental sound into a structured live performance changed the nature of the work. The presence of real musicians on piano, cello, double bass, percussion, guitar and clarinet instilled a meaning and drama which the original composition had deliberately eschewed. This produced a hushed reverence among the listeners that was in some ways at odds with the composer's intention: a mobile phone rang and the embarrassed owner hurriedly turned it off, whereas the true ambient spirit surely demanded that it be allowed to ring and the ensuing conversation incorporated into the performance.

Afterwards a delighted Eno declared that his original recording had merely been a demo waiting for this first "proper performance". Overall it was a fascinating exercise in how environment and circumstance can totally alter perceptions of a piece of music, even though the notes remain the same.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER NIGEL WILLIAMSON

THEATRE: American exchange offers a David Rabe premiere; Viking sagas lose their menace; superbly performed Gogol with music

The doctor's dilemma to die for Icelandic sex and stooges

Prompted by the wish to make a good thing go further, as well as by impulses of economy and global sharing, many companies nowadays transfer productions to other theatres of similar standing. Mostly the plays do not leave their shores but Mike Bradwell's *Bush* Theatre has struck up an exchange partnership with the Long Wharf Theatre of New Haven, Connecticut, sending last year's production of Joe Penhall's *Love and Understanding* over there and returning the compliment by presenting David Rabe's latest play, with five members of its original American cast.

In this interesting but unsatisfying work, by the author of *Streamers* and *Hurlyburly*, a doctor is asked to help to end the life of a man who is terminally ill, suffers constant pain but whose body is declining to die of its own accord. Based on an essay by Dr Richard Selzer (of the Yale School of Medicine) recording such a request, Rabe expands the short account into a two-act drama.

The material could be riveting. Our passions and prejudices might have gone heaving this way and that as the ill man, his lover and their woman friend enlist the doctor's sympathy, and as we watch the doctor's dilemma (to kill or not to kill) painfully unfold. The lurid walls of Neil Patel's set, streaked black and

A Question of Mercy Bush W12

crimson like the background of a Munch horror-pic, suggest the prospect of angst, and Dr Chapman's conscience

does inflict two nasty acts of revenge upon him while he sleeps. These incidents are designed to trick the audience too, and where once is forgivable, twice is bad melodrama. And yet, despite assured performances in the leading roles, where Seth Gilliam's curious formality of phrasing as the stricken man and the

unhappy smiles of Richard Bekins as his lover are entirely credible and convincing, the play itself feels awkwardly unreal. Rabe establishes Chapman's dedication as a man of honour and surgical achievement, and David Chandler's performance adds many good touches of embarrassment and self-acknowledgement, but he has no one with whom to show his mental struggles. Addressing the audience is not enough. Nor can the onward thrust of Doug Hughes's direction prevent us realising that the play soon focuses upon the little things — who shall turn on the slide-projector when the pill-taking begins, what time shall the doctor arrive to give the lethal injection if required. I trust I am not callous to have thought that a walk by a favourite cliff would solve the problem in seconds, and when such a route to extinction is suggested the ill man's protest, "I am not a man of violence," smacks of author's manipulation.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Painful process: Seth Gilliam as the dying man and David Chandler as his doctor

The Daughter of the Poet Pleasance N1

arches or strike poses as trees. The men, dressed in fairytale silk cloaks and tights, wear their smalls outside their leggings. If Magnus had had his way they wouldn't have made it past the dressing room.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Mind games

There is a famous review of Rich Hall that claims he could read from a telephone directory and still be funny. *Hettie Judah* writes. While this is probably true, it is not hard to feel that a couple of points have been missed along the way.

Never mind belly laughs and aching sides, what hurts most coming out of Rich Hall's gig is the brain. His jokes about America exporting exercise machines are a cunning Trojan horse: this show is an aerobic workout for the mind, and you have not a hope in hell of keeping up with the instructor.

Comedians localising their acts is old news; any music hall plodder can tell the same joke and interchange the names of towns each night. The swotty Rich Hall takes it upon himself to learn the nuances of suburbs. On a four-night run in London he can make comfortable jokes about North Hackney and poke fun at Lewisham.

With the help of his magnetic world map he takes England sailing on a comedic tour of the world, kicking ass in the Falklands, auctioning off Montserrat. To those unacquainted with Mr Hall, it is probably worth pointing out at this stage that he is a native of Montreal, where jokes about

COMEDY Rich Hall Bloomsbury

local British politics are not included on the curriculum.

His material swings wildly from the whimsical to the sphenetic. Having discovered a career adviser in the audience, he ruminates on the working day of a hurricane namer, and the man who picks the map colours for new countries. "New Congo? Hot diggidy, yeah! ... Green! ... Phew." His real ire is reserved for the grand old US of A, land of snacks and exercise bikes and a President who fancies women who look like "shrubbery with lipstick". When Clinton visited Africa, he did so, suggests Hall, because he thought the warring Rwandan factions were a snack. Cheesy Hutus and Onion Tutis.

The real joy in watching Rich Hall is his attacks on the audience. The man is an extempore powerhouse: he talks fast, thinks faster and can be unprintably mean. Indeed, his invectives are so good that, far from leaving the arena at half-time, half the audience tried to move to the front row in an attempt to provoke him, further.

Power in the darkness

The Overcoat BAC, SW11

The great challenge in adapting books for the stage is to show the unshowable — the private emotional lives of characters, authorial commentary and so on which make up a complete artwork. Eschewing the blunt instruments of narrator, dream sequence or flashback, the Clod Ensemble give a third dimension to Gogol's short story *The Overcoat* by meshing original music with highly physical theatre.

To categorise it as spoken opera belittles the seamless integration the company achieves between theatre and music. The musicians move about with the actors to appear as characters inside the scene: as office workers, partygoers and cabaret artists. The actors also contribute musically through percussive movement, snatches of song and choral dialogue.

Gogol's story follows the fortunes of Akaky Akakievich, a simple clerk whose accidental purchase of an opulent overcoat brings him a fleeting taste of success and popularity before ultimately causing his downfall. The bleakness of the bureaucratic system in which he slogs unquestioningly throughout his life and by which he is ultimately betrayed is beautifully imaged through minutely observed tricks of movement. The mind-

devising delivery of "How dare you" in the privacy of his office. The tailor Petrovich is involved in a detailed toenail-picking session as Akakievich enters his shop. Beyond any simple sense of story is a richly drawn society of characters.

The script and design create a balance between contemporary Britain and 1830s Russia while remaining clipped and economic. Dialogue is fractured and costumes are a deconstructed jumble. This patchwork style is used to devastating effect as Akakievich's halting fragments of speech adhere and create a deeper sense of meaning during his collapse.

In Paul Ritter's brilliant performance, Akakievich is surprisingly sympathetic. His sweet smile and nervous twitches hint at benign simplicity rather than leaden torpor. What makes *The Overcoat* ultimately unsatisfying, though, is the dark hopelessness of the story itself. While this production offers more than the usual emotional involvement, the effect is still deliberately uncomfortable.

But this is still a rich, quick-witted and superbly performed ensemble production which creates something beyond the sum of its musical and theatrical parts.

less copyists systematically rip paper into fragments; labyrinthine corridors are charted on the unmarked stage; every task and decision made seems hopelessly arbitrary.

The potency of the Clods' performance lies in the detail invested in the most incidental characters. We watch the Important Person practising his



Wintry: Alison Pengelly and Paul Ritter go Gogol

devising delivery of "How dare you" in the privacy of his office. The tailor Petrovich is involved in a detailed toenail-picking session as Akakievich enters his shop. Beyond any simple sense of story is a richly drawn society of characters.

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But this is still a rich, quick-witted and superbly performed ensemble production which creates something beyond the sum of its musical and theatrical parts.

HETTIE JUDAH

BUILDING A LIBRARY A guide to the best available recordings, in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

RAVEL'S DAPHNIS ET CHLOE Reviewed by Jonathan Swain

"A VAST musical fresco, less concerned with archaism than with fidelity to the Greece of my dreams, which is similar to that imagined and painted by the French artists of the 18th century" — this was Ravel's own description of *Daphnis et Chloé*, and what dreams they were!

The ballet can surely lay claim to be our century's most sheerly beautiful orchestral and choral score; indeed, one would look in vain for a more sensuous sound than the "Daybreak" sequence, familiar as the opening of the ballet's popular Second Suite. But the Second Suite is only the final 15 minutes of a score that lasts around 55, and recordings of the Suite usually do without the chorus — a regrettable omission.

Over the past 40-year span of recordings of the complete ballet, recording techniques have obviously developed, but more strikingly, so have instrument designs and the way those instruments are played. It is quite a shock to go back to a 1962 account from the Paris Conservatoire Orchestra under André Cluytens and hear sounds that Ravel would probably have recognised — woodwinds and brass with a more

vocal style of playing and a greater likelihood of that wind choir not being perfectly tuned.

Among other older recordings, the truly "classic" *Daphnis et Chloé* is from the man who conducted the ballet's premiere in Paris in 1912. In 1959 the 82-year-old Pierre Monteux set down the complete ballet with the LSO and it remains the most intimate, playful, mobile, fresh and rhythmically supple account of the score ever recorded.

Tempos have gradually slowed down in the intervening years, conductors losing some of the ballet's freshness in pursuit of a more generalised voluptuousness. But recording techniques in the early decades of stereo were unable to do justice to the full range — from the almost inaudible to the tumultuously loud — of Ravel's score. Even the famous Decca Montreal recording with Charles Dutoit from 1980 can now be heard as a compromise in this respect.

So the Library top choice goes to a 1994 recording with a conductor more interested in refined radiance than generalised voluptuousness, in charge of the orchestra today most capable of ravishing sense: Pierre Boulez and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra (Deutsche Grammophon 447 057-2, £15.49).

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk. Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Mozart's Die Entführung aus dem Serail

Richard...
Regret
I've
had a
few...

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هكذا من الأنا

Richard Cork looks back on his three years chairing the visual arts panel of the Arts Council

Regrets? I've had a few...

Public awareness of the Arts Council of England has been dominated by alarming headlines about shenanigans at the Royal Opera. Having participated in the council's deliberations for the past three years, I can testify to opera's nightmarish ability to spring up, like Banquo's ghost, at our debates. But it is a pity that blood-letting at the Royal Opera should overshadow other, less scandalous and more rewarding priorities.

After receiving the invitation to chair the council's visual arts panel, I hesitated. The main worry was time. As well as the panel's regular meetings, I would automatically become a member of council and attend its monthly meetings. Each of these marathon sessions, accompanied by an avalanche of papers to read beforehand, often swallowed up two days. I wondered if I could afford to spend so many working hours on unpaid activities.

In the end these misgivings were outweighed by more positive considerations. After all, visual arts funding was in crisis. The burgeoning vitality of contemporary British art masked a profound malaise. It centred on the financial plight of the publicly funded galleries. Discussions with Marjorie Allthorpe-Guyton, the council's admirable director of visual arts, convinced me that the problem was even more acute.

So a meeting was held of gallery directors across the country. Both Lord Gornie and Mary Allen, the council's chair and secretary-general, attended. It was an impassioned discussion, reflecting the deep frustration of energetic institutions hamstrung by successive governmental cuts. United by the urge to play a more dynamic role within their towns, they found themselves slashing spending instead.

Their plight was mirrored within the Arts Council itself. The Treasury's niggardliness had forced staff to spend too much time shoring up or axing existing commitments. My predecessor as visual arts chair, Richard Rogers, had ensured that architecture became one of the council's priorities. I was delighted when architecture was brought under the umbrella of the visual arts department. But the ever-strinking grant-in-aid made it difficult to develop these initiatives.

Then the lottery arrived, suddenly transforming the council's grant-giving powers. The amounts pouring in from

the nation's love of gambling exceeded all expectation, and they have benefited galleries of every size throughout the country. I am sorry that the Hayward, caught in protracted negotiations over the renewal of the South Bank Centre, still awaits funds for its excellent plans to enlarge the existing building. But earlier this year, I was enormously gratified when two important galleries reopened.

The Serpentine Gallery in Kensington Gardens, threatened with closure by a Heritage Minister only four years ago, has now re-emerged with its unique luminosity enhanced. Aided by a council lottery grant of £3 million the director, Julia Peyton-Jones, and her architect John Miller, have triumphantly modernised the building while retaining its delectable identity.

Only a month later, in Birmingham, the Ikon — a quite different yet no less exemplary gallery — opened. This time it involved moving from inadequate premises to a splendidly restored Victorian building, the former Cozell's Street School. Adapting its neo-Gothic architecture to the needs of contemporary artists posed a big challenge. But it was seized with aplomb by the director Elizabeth

Macgregor and her architect Axel Burrough. The Arts Council's lottery grant of £3.7 million ensured that Birmingham now boasts a world-class showcase for modern art.

Not all these new galleries are multimillion-pound, big city affairs. Nothing could be more rural than ArtsWays, sequestered in the silence of the New Forest. With £306,000 of lottery money, the director Linda Fredericks has created a captivating space for art in the



Part of Richard Long's intriguing "Dartmoor" exhibition which inaugurated the refurbished and extended Spacex Gallery, Exeter, in 1996

village of Sway. The invitation to open this converted coach-house, combined with a minimal new building designed by Tony Fretton, provided one of my most enjoyable days at the council. So did reopening the Spacex Gallery, housed in a 19th-century warehouse in Exeter. To celebrate the handsome restoration of its exhibition spaces, designed by Nicholas Gilbert Scott and funded by a lottery grant, Richard Long mounted a pow-

erful show devoted to his exploration of Dartmoor. Some of the most exciting gallery projects have yet to be completed. By far the grandest is the Baltic Flour Mills, a disused and hugely impressive building at Gateshead Quays on Tyneside. Awarded £3.4 million of council lottery money last year, it will metamorphose into an international centre for modern art under the directorship of Sune Nordgren. The resurgence of

the Gateshead region has already been demonstrated by the dramatic unveiling of Antony Gormley's *Angel of the North*, a magnificent and stirring sculpture granted £584,000 from the lottery fund. The Arts Council's own collection, which provides invaluable support for contemporary artists by purchasing their work, has found a new home for its sculpture acquisitions at Dean Clough in Halifax, where the Henry Moore Insti-

tute already runs an outstanding sculpture gallery in converted factory premises. At Walsall, by contrast, a wholly new gallery is being constructed with the aid of £15.75 million from the council's lottery money. Home of a collection donated by Jacob Epstein's widow Kathleen, this canal-side building has been designed by the young architects Caruso St John.

All these galleries share the desire to look onwards, placing education at the centre of their activities. The Arts Council has made just such a commitment a prerequisite of lottery grants. But the galleries' ability to fulfil their educational ambitions depends on funding. So far, lottery money has been largely restricted to buildings. It is vital that new legislation widens the range of lottery spending in the future. Already, with the introduction of the popular Arts for Everyone scheme, the council

AROUND THE GALLERIES

Peter Phillips was one of the Royal College of Art graduates who first flashed before the public gaze in the *New Generation* 1964 exhibition at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, which also included David Hockney, Patrick Caulfield, Allen Jones and John Hoyland. Then Phillips was tarred with the Pop Art brush, and has never quite thrown that off. Nor has the show signs of wanting to.

His new show is actually his first in this country since his retrospective at the Barbican in 1983 and the raw materials of his paintings are still Romantic and Victorian art, science fiction illustrations, cartoon characters, fancy wallpapers and tourist postcards. Plus the odd plain triangle or target. The mixing and matching is as sleek as ever, the finish as meticulously precise. *Thomas Gibson Fine Art, 44 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-499 8572), until May 29*

THE fact that Richard Beer has just hit 70 and is still going strong must be accounted a cause for celebration. He has always been one of those quiet artists who settle early to cultivating their own small plot of ground, and continue to do so without ever hitting the headlines or disappearing altogether from view. No flaming revolutionary, then: maybe a touch precious, decorative, miniaturist, with some remote affiliation to Sickert.

Beer has always been passionate about the theatre, especially the Edwardian kind full of plush and gilt. Many key works in his new show are inspired by the Hackney Empire, wonderfully rich and atmospheric. Others take him to the Palm Court at the Ritz, the Salisbury in St Martin's Lane, or further afield, to Paris, Andalusia, Morocco. They may not be earth-shattering, but for what they are it would be difficult to imagine them done any better.

Sally Hunter Fine Art, 11 Halkin Arcade, Motcomb Street, SW1 (0171-235 0934), until May 15.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Not all the new galleries are in big cities?

RICHARD CORK

HOW LOTTERY GRANTS HAVE CHANGED THE FACE OF BRITISH GALLERIES OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS



Gormley's *Angel of the North*: Gateshead's new landmark



Birmingham's Ikon Gallery



The Serpentine Gallery, stylishly developed with lottery money

CONCERTS: A feast of contemporary music in Manchester; French visitors show off their Norwegian in London

Modern masters

Kent Nagano has had a remarkable effect on the sound and the ensemble of the Hallé. Taking part in the International Society for Contemporary Music World Music Days here, the orchestra played Ligeti, Saariaho, Berg and Berio with such sophistication that anyone might have believed that this kind of thing was its day-in-day speciality.

Nor is it the speciality of their audience which, nevertheless, came to the Bridgewater Hall in respectable numbers. The major reward was Christian Tetzlaff's performance of Berg's Violin Concerto, which he played with impressive technical assurance. If his interpretation was a little short of style, it lacked nothing in compassion.

Hallé/Nagano Manchester

As the finely balanced orchestral performance confirmed, Nagano and the Hallé know their Berg Violin Concerto very well. The other works in the concert they had never attempted before but, beginning with an initially disturbing and ultimately shattering account of Ligeti's *Apparitions*, they showed no sign of unease or uncertainty at any point. The mysticism of Kajja Saariaho's *Château de Pâle*, which had not been heard in this country before, seemed to have no more problems for them than the realism of Luciano Berio's *Ekphrasis - Continuum II*.

Standard fare trip

Somewhat frustratingly, the French have long been reluctant to perform their own music as much as it deserves. Whatever the reasons, which surely have more to do with neglect than self-effacement, no national statements were made when the Orchestre de Paris — under a Dutch conductor and with a Norwegian soloist — visited the Festival Hall for the first time in a decade with a programme of Mozart and Haydn. Great music, certainly, but it's hard to imagine a London band making the equivalent trip with such standard fare.

Yet the programme made perfect sense given the conductor: Frans Brüggen, that guru of 18th-century music who has recently worked closely with

Orch de Paris/Brüggen Festival Hall

the orchestra and who must in part be credited for the improvement in its standards heard here. The opening of Haydn's Symphony No 83, *La Poule*, one of the so-called Paris symphonies, was especially satisfying in its blend of period awareness and a modern sound; the music was full-bodied yet stylish, and full of contrast. But although the rest of the performance captured the quiet "heartbeat" of the second movement and the elegance of the third, it was also a little ordinary. The playing in the finale could

have been more sharply focused. Similarly, and in spite of a loving accompaniment, it took Truls Mørk to inject real vitality into Haydn's Cello Concerto No 1. With his dark, sometimes even wry tone he was a compelling and poetic soloist. Much of his playing revealed a chamber-like approach, but he did not shy away from dashing virtuosity in the finale. Brüggen evoked all the jollity of Mozart's *Jupiter Symphony*, and from its imposing start shaped the first movement in an impressive sweep. Perhaps the airy-textured Andante and smooth Menuetto were rather too respectable, but the fire was rekindled in a closely argued finale fully worthy of the work that crowns Mozart's symphonic output so magnificently.

WORLD CUP TICKETS.

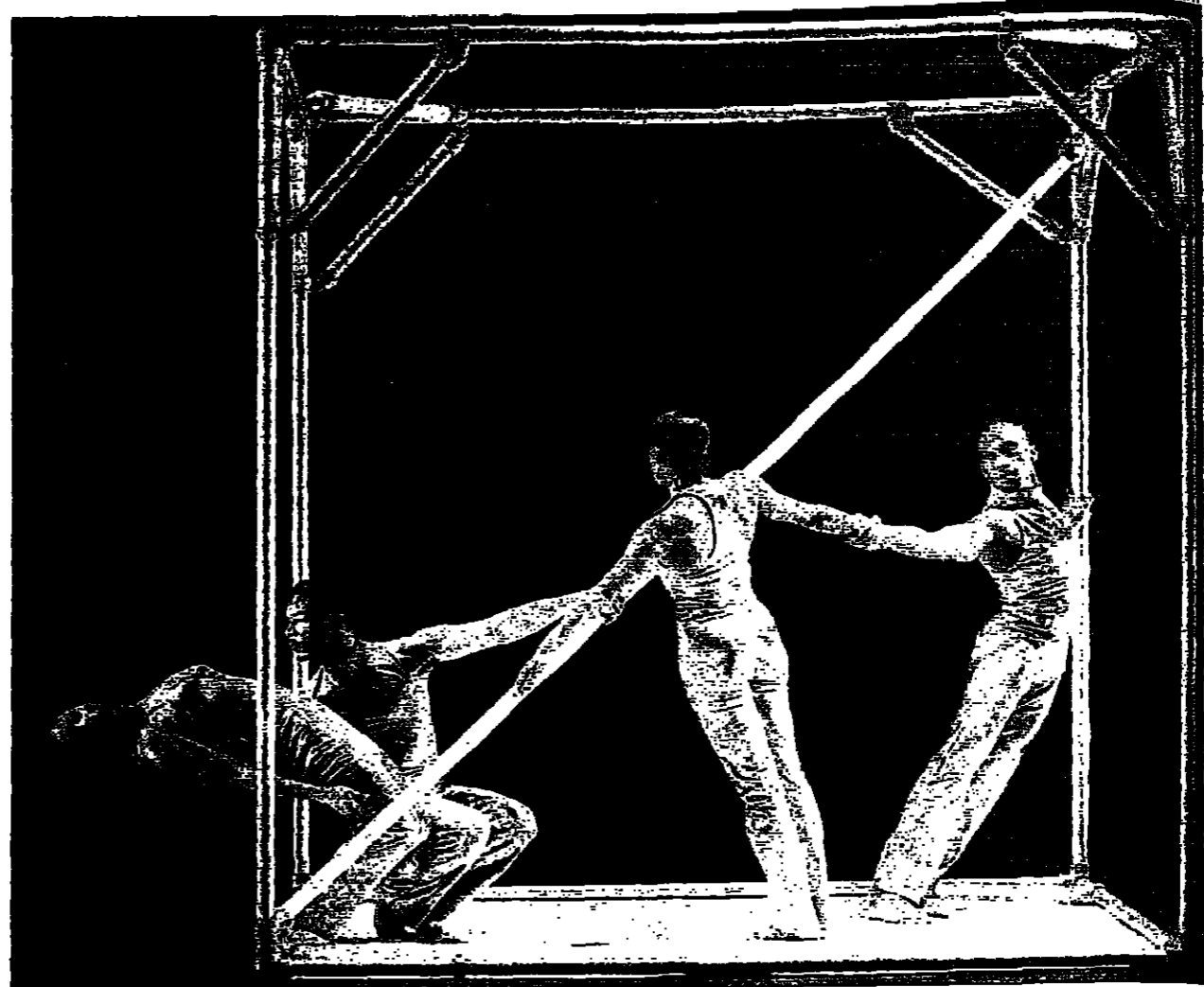
Tired of ringing France? Call in at your local Norwegian and see them Monday's Times for details.

GERALD LARNER

JOHN ALLISON

Templates for the future

DEB CRAINE



Stephen Derrick's *Chasing the Moon*, a "nimble and perky entertainment that highlights the dancers' muscularity"

The four new pieces which this Leeds-based company is presenting on the South Bank (until tomorrow night) reflect the desire of the recently appointed artistic director, Thea Merissa Barnes, to provide what she calls "inspirational and inventive contemporary dance". Some of the work is more insipid than inspirational, but there is one outstanding success — a premiere from Mark Baldwin —

and overall the programme reveals an ambitious company trying aggressively to broaden its artistic reach. Stephen Derrick has been dancing with Phoenix since 1989 but has never before made anything for the company. Which makes *Chasing the Moon*, which opened the Queen Elizabeth Hall programme on Saturday, all the more impressive. With a cast of just four and a simple steel cube for a set, Derrick constructs a nimble and perky entertainment that highlights the dancers' muscularity.

To the strains of a Steve Reich score, dancers climb up steel rods, slide down them and wrap themselves around the moulded metal. Even when they escape from the confines of the cube the climbing motif continues in partnering that relies on more than the usual degree of support. The performers are strong and lithe; the choreography engaging. Barnes herself contributes *Unbroken*, a restless solo for Booker T. Louis which attempts to thrust moral truths at the audience with the aid of Sol B. River's spoken script about "the journey of wisdom that brings about enlighten-

ment". Happily, Louis himself is eminently watchable, even if the work itself is not. The American choreographer Dwight Rhoden is responsible for *Diction*, yet another of those generic works that look at the eternal struggle between men and women in relationships. Two male and two female dancers (in trashy red costumes) compete for supremacy in alternating sequences of dance dialogue, a

kind of choreographic "he says she says". The women are feisty, the men rely on their brawn to carry them through. The longer phrases of Rhoden's supple choreography expose the dancers' technical weaknesses, but the irreconcilable differences in their tug of war are well-chained. With Baldwin's specially commissioned *Templates of Glory*, Phoenix gives the best

for last. This work, set to Rameau's *Le Temple de la Gloire*, announces itself with a flurry of introductions and then sets about exploring the music's Baroque beauty with a modern sensibility. As always, Baldwin's choreography combines the goofy with the graceful; his dancers have the department of grown-ups one minute and of children the next. The atmosphere is one of harmony and communal ener-

gy, the movement language is rigorous but relaxed and the structure sophisticated. Baldwin has made these dancers work very hard, and it shows in the way we see them develop beyond the precinct of athleticism, the area of expression in which they are most comfortable. *Templates of Glory* is not only good, it is good for Phoenix. DEBRA CRAINE

LONDON

ACROSS THE BRIDGE Anna Cropper and David Friedland perform in their own play based on the true story of two Jewish survivors of a 1945 death march along the Elbe. New East, 27 New End, Hampstead, NW3 (0171-734 0222). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Sat and Sun, 3.30pm. Until May 10. (2)

A DIFFICULT AGE Gabriele Lloyed and Lynn Farnley play two very different women in Marty Quack's comedy for English Touring Theatre. Richmond Theatre, The Green (0181-940 0088). Tonight tomorrow and Sat, 7.45pm. (2)

AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE Trevor Nunn's rocky, detailed drama, with Ian McKellen as the awkward hero. Back in the repertoire until June. National Theatre (Owl), South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000). Tonight Sat, 7.15pm. Mats Thur and Sat, 3pm. (2)

SHOW BOAT Hal Prince's spectacular Broadway production, with Rachel Bell in the role of Joe and George Grizzard as Cap'n Andy. Phoenix Theatre, Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-447 5403). Opens tonight 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thur and Sat, 3.30pm. (2)

SOME RECITALS Following the superb rendition of Schubert's Winterreise last December, Ian Bostridge returns to sing more Telemann tunes. Sothmann's song cycle *Dichtungen* and Britten's *Four Ancient Songs* are also on the programme. Royal Albert Hall, Victoria Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm. (2)

ELSEWHERE

CHESTER Will Burville United, facing relegation, sign up the star from Tottenham's "Red" Sheeting Star.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargre

Basel Thomas's football play from 1948, is directed now, as 50 years ago, by Frith Banbury. Gateway, Hamilton Place (01244 340352). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Thu, 7.45pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm, some mats Wed and Sat. (2)

GLASGOW: One of Germany's leading orchestras, the *Bamberger Radio-Symphonie* Orchestra under its charismatic principal conductor Lorenz Mazzoli, dips into its extensive repertoire to bring up a popular programme for the concert. Two works.

SOUTHAMPTON: In Claire Luckham's *The Seduction of Ann Bolton*, Simon Pegg and Jessica Leake are loved and beloved in the love affair that started the Anglican Church. Patrick Sandford directs. Northfield, University Road (01703 671771). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thu, 7.30pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm, some mats. Until May 16. (2)

LONDON GALLERIES Design Museum: Booth — 100 years of innovation (0171-578 8055). DuWich's Italy in the Age of Turner (0181-895 5254). National Anthony Caro (0171-447 2883). National National Portrait: Edwardian Photographs (0171-306 0355). Royal Academy: One and the Rise of Moscow (0171-500 8000). Serpentine: Piero Manzoni (0171-402 6075). Tate: Turner and the Sorcerer (0171-887 9030).

THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE: Alan Ayckbourn directs Jane Asher in his new comedy about a surprising love and its surprising consequences on lovers. Unprovokedly ingenious set. Glasgow, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5069). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thur and Sat, 3pm. (2)

UNCLE VANYA: Hans Michael Cronjager directs Stephen Dillane, Lesley Manville, Anastasia Hille in a new RSC version of Chekhov's drama about illusion and illusion. Theatre 503, 50 The Cut, SE1 (0171-828 5833). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm; mats Thur and Sat, 3pm. First week. (2)

THE UNEXPECTEDLY MILD: Ewan McGregor and Sarah Polley are the stragglers on a train in a new Yasmina Reza play. Matthew Warchus directs. Theatr, Bow Church, St. Giles, EC2 (0171-438 8891). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thur, Sat, 3pm. (2)

LONG RUNNERS **Buddy** Stratford (0171-930 8800). **Clara** New London (0171-405 0072). **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)** Citarion (0171-389 1737). **Green** Cambridge (0171-494 5069). **Lea** Middlesbrough (0171-434 0908). **Miss Saigon** Drury Lane (0171-494 5069). **The Mousetrap & Hatfield's** (0171-535 1443). **50** Smokey Joe's Cafe, Prince of Wales (0171-539 5907). **Shogun** Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-414 6254). **The Woman in Black: Fortune** (0171-838 2238).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of the shows in London

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

Royal Bot. Piccadilly Theatre, Dorman Street, W1 (0171-569 1734). Tonight-Thur, 7.45pm. Mat tomorrow, 2.30pm. In rep.

A QUESTION OF MERCY: The US cast from the Long Wharf Theatre of New Haven on an exchange visit with an acclaimed audience play by David Rabe, author of *Hurlyburly*. South Bank, Strand, SW1 (0171-743 3388). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until May 23.

SHOCKHEADS: Peter Julian Crouch and Pheem McDermott. *Shogun* Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5069). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thur and Sat, 3pm. (2)

LEBENSBRÄU: Jack Duff in British period of local history. New play set in Germany in the year 2005. The Chancery, Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Sat and Sun, 3.30pm. (2)

THE MANSFORDS: Elaine Page and Michael Pennington head a cast that also includes Anna Campese, Peter Bowles and David Yelland. Peter Hall directs a new translation of Moliere's

by Beethoven: the Egmont Overture and the sublime Violin Concerto, with the young virtuoso Henry Ham as soloist, are followed by Strauss's swaggy ballet *The Rite of Spring*. Royal Concert Hall, Southwell St (0141-287 5511). Tonight, 7.30pm. (2)

NOTTINGHAM: James Bolam plays the wily-brother-in-law in *A Fool and His Money*. Jeremy Sams's adaptation of Moliere's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*. Martin Duncan directs. Playhouse, Wellington Circus (0115-941 9410). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, some mats. (2)

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unravels Fascinating, funny and unsettling Woody Allen film. Allen stars with the usual great cast (Demi Moore, Sherry Stringfield, Elizabeth Shue). Clarendon Picture House (0171-498 3323). Carfax West End (0171-389 1722). Gate (0171-727 4043).

GREENWICH (0181-225 3000). **Odeon:** Camden Town (0181-315 4255). **Swire:** Colindale (0181-315 4255). **Wendy:** Tottenham Court Rd (0171-377 2121). **Wendy:** Tottenham Court Rd (0171-377 2121). **Wendy:** Tottenham Court Rd (0171-377 2121).

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and overall the programme reveals an ambitious company trying aggressively to broaden its artistic reach. Stephen Derrick has been dancing with Phoenix since 1989 but has never before made anything for the company. Which makes *Chasing the Moon*, which opened the Queen Elizabeth Hall programme on Saturday, all the more impressive. With a cast of just four and a simple steel cube for a set, Derrick constructs a nimble and perky entertainment that highlights the dancers' muscularity.

To the strains of a Steve Reich score, dancers climb up steel rods, slide down them and wrap themselves around the moulded metal. Even when they escape from the confines of the cube the climbing motif continues in partnering that relies on more than the usual degree of support. The performers are strong and lithe; the choreography engaging. Barnes herself contributes *Unbroken*, a restless solo for Booker T. Louis which attempts to thrust moral truths at the audience with the aid of Sol B. River's spoken script about "the journey of wisdom that brings about enlighten-

ment". Happily, Louis himself is eminently watchable, even if the work itself is not. The American choreographer Dwight Rhoden is responsible for *Diction*, yet another of those generic works that look at the eternal struggle between men and women in relationships. Two male and two female dancers (in trashy red costumes) compete for supremacy in alternating sequences of dance dialogue, a

kind of choreographic "he says she says". The women are feisty, the men rely on their brawn to carry them through. The longer phrases of Rhoden's supple choreography expose the dancers' technical weaknesses, but the irreconcilable differences in their tug of war are well-chained. With Baldwin's specially commissioned *Templates of Glory*, Phoenix gives the best

for last. This work, set to Rameau's *Le Temple de la Gloire*, announces itself with a flurry of introductions and then sets about exploring the music's Baroque beauty with a modern sensibility. As always, Baldwin's choreography combines the goofy with the graceful; his dancers have the department of grown-ups one minute and of children the next. The atmosphere is one of harmony and communal ener-

gy, the movement language is rigorous but relaxed and the structure sophisticated. Baldwin has made these dancers work very hard, and it shows in the way we see them develop beyond the precinct of athleticism, the area of expression in which they are most comfortable. *Templates of Glory* is not only good, it is good for Phoenix. DEBRA CRAINE

Anthony Davis and Noel McCoy — then issued the sort of explicit instructions to aspiring lovers in which funk lyrics specialise. After an hour-long set in which Robinson's usually mellifluous vibes playing was allowed little room to breathe, the audience might have been forgiven for feeling that the approaching century was merely going to serve up warmed-over 20th-century soul and funk. Steve Williamson's saxes, however, had other ideas.

With drummer Marquee Gilmore and bassist Larry Barclay setting up a groove remarkable both for its intricate interplay between guitarist Mo Nazam and DJ Lyndon Douglas, Williamson was able to instill his powerfully inventive soprano, and subsequently his full-throated tenor, into the rich mix, alongside Joe Bashorum's keyboards. The most obvious 20th-century stylistic template was the pre-retirement, 1970s work of Miles Davis (roughly from *On the Corner* to *Pangaea* and *Agharta*), but the 1990s and beyond were also skilfully evoked in the music's constant utilisation of skittering drum'n'bass rhythms. Climaxing with the band's vocalist, Vanessa Simon, adding her pleasantly strident voice to the heady brew, Williamson's set could indeed claim to be 21st-century music.

Chris Parker

Chris Parker

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LAW

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Grania Langdon-Down on a vital appeal that challenges the way compensation is awarded

Risks that a victim might take

Three accident victims, whose compensation awards were cut by a third by the Court of Appeal, will next Tuesday challenge the way the damages were calculated in the House of Lords.

Several hundred cases are awaiting the outcome of their appeals, which are expected to last six days. The three test cases involve a young boy who suffered cerebral palsy as a result of a hospital error, a woman injured in a car accident and a young man left brain-damaged after an accident at work.

The object of compensation awards is to provide the victim with a capital sum which, when invested, will provide, as far as possible, for the cost of care and loss of earnings.

The issues at stake are what rate of return should be expected on the invested money and how damages should be assessed for contingencies such as long-term illness and long-term unemployment. The Lord Chancellor has the power under the Damages Act 1996 to decide what rate of return should be used. But he is waiting on the House of Lords ruling before making any decisions.

The cases go back to 1995, when the High Court fixed higher than normal

sums for future losses and expenses in the three cases. It departed from the conventional approach of basing awards on the assumption of a four to five per cent real return after inflation — the figure that could be expected from investing the capital sum in a mixed basket of equities and gilts.

Instead, the court adopted the recommendations of a working party on the calculation of damages headed by Sir Michael Ogden, QC, which were endorsed by the Law Commission in a report on damages. The working party argued that victims should be entitled to invest in the most risk-free fashion, namely index-linked Government stocks, with a fixed return of three per cent above the retail price index, which would mean greatly increased awards.

The Court of Appeal decided in October, 1996 that victims should not be in a better position than ordinary Stock Market investors. They ruled that four to five per cent return should be followed as it was not for courts to adopt a new practice of their own.

The effect on the three cases was substantial. James Thomas, eight, has cerebral palsy after a drug was wrongly given to his mother during labour. His award of £1,285,000 against Brighton Health Authority was cut by almost £300,000.

Thelma Wells, now in her sixties, was seriously injured in a road accident six years ago and needs 24-hour care. Her damages of £1,619,000 were reduced by £532,000.

The £906,000 awarded to Kelvin Page, a steel worker, against Sheerness Steel in Kent for the brain damage he suffered when he was speared by a hot metal bar was reduced by £280,000.

Lawyers for the victims argued that they should not have to gamble their awards on the Stock Market in order to ensure a sufficient income for the rest of their lives.

Caroline Harmer, President of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, said: "Victims are not ordinary investors. They are people who cannot earn their living in any other way and cannot bear the risk of one of their investments falling. It could mean the basis of their care regime is affected."



Thelma Wells: her damages of £1,619,000 were reduced by £532,000

However, Bertie Leigh, a partner at Hempsons, a London solicitors, who acts for Brighton Health Authority in the James Thomas case, argued there was evidence that, over a long period, investment in a broad basket of equities and gilts provided a fair and consistent return.

He said: "The plaintiffs say the higher rate of return on equities is because they are intrinsically dangerous while index-linked Government stocks strip out the risk."

"In James Thomas's case it meant his damages were inflated by a quarter in order to guard against a purely theoretical risk. But it is not reasonable for a plaintiff to take no risks. His entitlement is to be put in the position he was in before the accident."

The argument is, in reality, as old as the Parable of the Talents. The Court of Appeal found it was not in the public interest to increase damages by a quarter on the pretext that plaintiffs would or should then bury their winnings. We may hope that the House of Lords does the same."

If the victims' appeals are successful, Alistair Kinley, assistant manager of liability claims for the Association of British Insurers, said it could cost insurers an additional £450 million to cover outstanding cases.

He said lump sum awards were a "very blunt" way of helping people long term. Research by the Law Commission found a number of victims were putting their damages in banks or building societies which had very low rates of return. "It is a question of balancing risk and reward. What is required is a more tailored form of investment, not necessarily more money."

Other ways of compensating victims, such as structured settlements, are increasingly being considered. Personal injury and insurance lawyers meet in October to discuss the best ways of helping victims.

For Mr Leigh, "the reality is that no one knows precisely what a plaintiff's needs will be. The only certainty is that the court will either award too much or too little."

The case for the European Court

Tomorrow I will be visiting the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg as part of my role as Lord Chancellor and Minister responsible for the justice system in the country currently holding the presidency of the European Union. Today, I take this opportunity to explain and pay tribute to the role played by the Court of Justice in the development of the European Union, and to address some of the more cynical and ill-informed criticism that has been directed towards it by Eurosceptic politicians.

It is the court, perhaps more than any other European body, that has made the EU what it is today: not simply a loosely connected trade bloc, but a close knit international legal structure that exercises a vital influence upon our polity and economy, and a dynamic influence upon our domestic law. The Treaty of Rome, by which the original EEC was established, refers only in passing to the role of the court. The court, it says, is to "ensure that the law is observed", but few could have anticipated the imagination and tenacity that would be brought to bear by the court in ensuring that it is.

The Treaty of Rome has always provided a mechanism under which member states who fail to comply with the obligations to which they have signed up can be brought before the Court of Justice at the behest of the Commission of another member state. However, the member states have lacked the political will for the policeman

legislative programme could have done. Countless obstacles to trade across Europe have been swept away by the domestic courts of our European partners; many more have been removed by governments fearful of swift and effective legal action within their national legal systems.

The Commission continues in its enforcement role, but the vast majority of enforcement actions are brought by private attorneys-general — individual citizens who take legal actions in their domestic courts. The consequences of the court's reforms have not always been palatable for successive British governments which have, on occasion, been found wanting in their compliance with community law. However, the extensive media coverage that is accorded to British defeats before the court has tended to overshadow the many cases in which it has upheld argument which we have put forward. I recognise that without the efforts of the Court of Justice, many of the trade barriers which the EU has sought to remove would still be in place, so depriving us of the economic benefits of membership of the Union.

Meanwhile, the court has become the target of what one commentator has described as the "catalogue of cruelties which now passes for serious Eurosceptic argument". The court, it has been said, is unelected and unaccountable in any direct sense either to the citizens of Europe or to their governments. Moreover, say its critics, it has gone beyond its judicial remit in pursuing an agenda that is overtly political. Such criticism is, in my view, both disingenuous and misleading. The higher courts of every democracy in western Europe, including our own House of Lords, are unelected and unaccountable, but those are vital attributes of any court that seeks to maintain its judicial independence from politicians.

As for the court's alleged political agenda, it undoubtedly prefers a teleological or purposive approach and is ready to look behind the wording of written texts at the underlying policy. The court has reasoned that the framers of the Treaty of Rome intended to create a Common Market that was effective rather than ineffective: a playing field that was truly level and not merely gently undulating. Those goals can only be attained if Community laws are given full effect in national legal systems, and that is what the court has set out to ensure.

It is my strong view that attacks on the court do not serve Britain's interests in Europe. The European Court of Justice is in many ways different from our own domestic courts, but it plays a vital role that it is in our national interest to defend.



Lord Irvine of Lairg the Lord Chancellor



Kelvin Page: award cut, too

Powell is 'cleared' of racism

MARTIN MEARS, who while president of the Law Society made his name by attacking political correctness, emerged from the relative obscurity of the society's back benches last week to appear as an "advocate" in *The Trial of Enoch Powell on Channel 4*.

The show staged a mock trial of Powell in front of a studio audience: surprise, surprise, Mr Mears acted for the defence.

"You cannot judge a man's whole life and personality on the basis of a single speech," he said before pointing out that among those who paid tribute to the politician on his death were John Major, Tony Blair and Tony Benn.

Unlike last year's Law Society presidential elections, where he was a surprise loser, Mr Mears came out on top. The audience voted to acquit Powell on a charge of racism.

OUTS

European Employment Lawyers Association at a forum chaired by Janet Gaymer, a leading employment specialist from Simmons & Simmons.

She told the 400 or so women at the meeting: "People ask me all the time how I cope. But I am absolutely no different from the rest of you — it's just that I am doing it more in the public eye than most."

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House of fair repute

GILLIAN SHEPARD, the former Education Secretary, last week defended the House of Commons from women who want full-scale reform. The hours might be made more sensible for both sexes but, the MP said: "You can't neuter the House of Commons and remove all the confrontation. That's politics."

She told 100 women from law, business and the media at the second meeting of the Adelaide Group, a networking forum set up by Berwin Leighton, women's partners, that if women did not like it, they could choose another career. She did not favour too much change.



Shepard: "That's politics"

detrimental effects, the courts of law".

Citing cases in which decisions to ban the identification of defendants have been overturned by the press, *Media Lawyer* claims the courts get away with many unlawful rulings because the media lacks the resources to challenge them.

"Open justice," it says, "is too important to be left to the journalists."

People-friendly

AN ENVIRONMENTAL law pressure group has come up with a series of proposals designed to make the roads safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

In its report, *Options for Civilising Road Traffic*, the Environmental Law Foundation points out that pedestrians and cyclists are the people most at risk of being injured or killed. Among its suggestions is a change to the law's current assumption that all road users are equally responsible for road safety, so that the onus is on drivers not to run over pedestrians and cyclists.

The report argues that strict liability offences should be introduced for accidents involving vulnerable road users. It says: "The prosecution would not have to show any intention on the part of the motorist, and once the offence was proved the only defences available would be those prescribed by statute."

Other suggestions include making certain Highway Code rules statutory requirements so that breaching them becomes a criminal offence; levying an administration charge on top of speeding fines to fund speed cameras; and allowing the confiscation of licences as part of bail conditions.

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This City based international law firm is seeking a construction lawyer with 4-5 years' ppe to undertake a mixture of contentious and non-contentious work. The successful candidate will work on major projects in conjunction with the firm's banking and energy practices. (Ref. 22496)

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سكزا من الأصا

There have been defeats, but the legal action is not over, says Alison Clarke

Women with a sporting chance

When the British Boxing Board of Control rejected Jane Couch's application for a licence to box, it cited medical reasons: women were more prone to accidents than men because of premenstrual tension; they were more susceptible to bruising and therefore to brain damage; and monthly hormonal changes resulted in fluid retention and weight gain, making weight categorisation harder.

But an industrial tribunal has held that the decision was prompted solely by "gender-based stereotypes and assumptions". It pointed out that Ms Couch was never examined by a board doctor, and that there was no evidence that "boxing poses a higher risk to women than to men or vice versa". In a damning decision, it criticised the board for not obtaining any medical evidence about Ms Couch. It said: "No male boxer would have been rejected on medical grounds without having had a medical investigation."

Ms Couch's solicitor, Sara Leslie of Irwin Mitchell, called it the "most outrageous case of gender-stereotyping I have seen in many years. What was uppermost in the board's mind was that if a woman was injured in the ring, that would mean the end of boxing." Because of the way the board conducted its defence, Ms Leslie said, she would be seeking maximum damages for loss of earnings and hurt feelings. She believed the figure could run into hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Other sporting bodies are hardly in a position to crow. The England and Wales Cricket Board was found guilty of sex discrimination when a tribunal ruled that some staff had pressurised a receptionist into having an abortion after an affair with a senior official. Theresa Harrild said the board gave her money for the abortion, then sacked her when she failed to return to work because of depression.

Vanessa Hardwick, a PE teacher from northwest London, brought a claim last year against the Football Association for sex discrimination. She said that during a two-week course to obtain an advanced coaching licence she had been deliberately left out. Despite obtaining higher marks than some men who passed an earlier course, she failed.

Ms Hardwick said: "I suffered because I was assessed on my ability to play men's football in their style and not women's, which is vastly different." The tribunal found in her favour and awarded her £5,000 for injury to feelings. Now she is suing for loss of potential earnings.

Kamlesh Bahl, who chairs the Equal Opportunities Commission, which backed women's claims, commented: "We want to see fair play. We want women to have the same opportunity to participate in sport as men. Historical prejudice should not be allowed to deny women the chance to succeed."



Legally KO'd: Jane Couch during training at a Birmingham gym

In the public interest

Phillip Sycamore defends self-regulation by solicitors

The imminent demise of self-regulation for solicitors has long been predicted by commentators such as Tony Holland, a former Law Society president (Law, March 17). They argue that the society's role as a regulator is incompatible with its role as solicitors' representative body. But that argument is based on a misunderstanding of the way the Law Society's two roles are carried out.

Self-regulation has been a success, enabling the profession to maintain and improve standards, as well as client protection, in a regulatory environment that is both flexible and responsive. Self-regulation works partly because the long-term commercial interests of solicitors are inextricably linked to the standard of service given to clients. This is all the more important in our increasingly competitive marketplace and with ever higher consumer expectations.

A recent example of how self-regulation works is conditional fees. Critics of conditional fees predicted that this new way of funding legal representation would lead to the exploitation of clients. They painted a picture of American-style ambulance-chasers taking the maximum success fee the law allows and seriously eroding their clients' damages. This has not happened.

In fact, the Law Society pressed for a mechanism to enable clients to challenge the level of success fee after the event. The society also developed, in consultation with consumer organisations, a model agreement to help to ensure terms that were favourable both to clients and to their solicitors. As the Government recognised in its recent consultation paper, research from the Policy Studies Institute shows that solicitors have overwhelmingly adopted the society's model conditional fee agreement. Among other things, the model agreement restricts the success fee to 25 per cent of the client's damages—even though the law imposes no such restriction. Self-regulation in the area of conditional fees has thus provided better client protection than the law. Consumer confidence in conditional fees has been protected, benefiting solicitors who want to take advantage of the new market for legal services opened up by conditional fees.

Some commentators have suggested that there is political pressure from the grassroots of the profession for the Law Society to focus on improving the position of solicitors with little regard for the interests of clients. They argue that this political pressure may undermine self-regulation. However, surveys of solicitors indicate that there is little demand for a reduction in client protection. In fact, the opposite is true. Recent focus group research, carried out for the Law Society, suggests that solicitors support a tough approach by the Law Society to maintaining high standards.

Of course, solicitors want deregulation where existing rules are no longer needed. Why, for example, should the Law Society have detailed rules about the names of solicitors' firms? However, removing unnecessary regulation is in the interests of the public just as much as in the interests of solicitors. And all the society's rule-making activity must be undertaken in the public interest.

Though the Law Society is not perfect and must be willing to change as the environment in which solicitors practise changes, the flexibility that self-regulation provides is invaluable. The society is already improving the services it provides to the profession and has continued to improve the way in which complaints about solicitors are handled. Self-regulation mostly works. And if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

High achievers push the barriers



Calvert, QC: life award

Second: Dilley

First: Hallett, QC

Mason: campaigner

BARBARA CALVERT, QC, a distinguished family law barrister, received a special lifetime award in the Times Woman of Achievement in the Law Awards last Saturday. Ms Calvert (Lady Lowry) was the first woman to found and head a set of chambers, in 1974, and was the first woman elected a bencher of Middle Temple, in 1982. Many nominators spoke of the help she had given to people in their careers and of her compassion, while Mr Justice Johnson talked of her courage.

Frances Gibb on the Women of Achievement

Heather Hallett, QC, won the first prize in the awards, presented at the 1998 Woman Lawyer conference in London. Hallett, who has risen to the top while managing to have a family life (she is married to a barrister and has two sons), was chosen for becoming the first woman to lead

the Bar, 76 years after the first woman was called to it. The second prize went to Patricia Dilley, the President of the Institute of Legal Executives, who left school at 14 without qualifications but went on to become a legal executive and now heads residential conveyancing at Freeth Cartwright, the Nottingham law firm. Last week the 23,000-strong institute won approval to grant its members advocacy rights. The runner-up was Angela Mason, the director of Stonewall, the

gay lobby group. Described as the "foremost lobbyist of her generation", she has led campaigns on the age of consent and gays in the Armed Forces, and mounted a test case on gay rights in Europe.

CORRECTION

The law firm of W. & A. Glossop, Sheffield, is not merging with Keeble Hawson (article, April 21). W. & A. Glossop is ceasing to practise, and one of its three partners is joining Keeble Hawson.

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MOTOR RACING

Magnussen collision puts future in doubt

By Kevin Eason

JAN MAGNUSSEN'S future with the Stewart Grand Prix team is in doubt after his collision with his team-mate, Rubens Barrichello, on the first lap of the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola on Sunday.

The Stewart team has been beset with difficulties and Barrichello and Magnussen have managed only a single finish each from four races. Reliability has been a problem but Magnussen has suffered three mishaps, two on the first lap.

The race on Sunday could prove to have been the last year. Several leading Stewart executives were at Imola to see the team perform and they were able to go back to their champagne earlier than expected.

Jackie Stewart and his son, Paul, the team's managing director, left for the airport before the end of the race. In the knowledge that Ford is rapidly losing patience with Formula One's newest team, Ford is the biggest company in the sport and understandably wants a return for the £60 million that it is investing in the Stewart team over five years.

Paul Stewart appeared distraught after a race that lasted barely a quarter of an hour for his team. Many of them will be in Barcelona today for a test session. "I have to believe that there is a ray of light somewhere," he said. "Having a collision between both cars in the race does not help matters."

The events of Sunday put considerable pressure on Magnussen, who had a disappointing 1997 season and was given a yellow card before the San Marino Grand Prix. Speculation is intensifying that the 24-year-old Dane could be dismissed within a couple of races — a desperate prospect for a likeable young man once described as the greatest talent since Ayrton Senna.

He is a protégé of Jackie Stewart, who pushed him through a career that included the British Formula Three championship in 1994, when he won 14 out of 18 races and beat Senna's record.

Stewart has remained faithful to his driver but is himself under pressure to make changes to convince Ford executives that they are pouring money into the right team.

RUGBY UNION: NEW ZEALAND CAPTAIN FORCED TO RETIRE BY KNEE INJURY

Fitzpatrick era comes to a close

By David Hands Rugby Correspondent

SEAN FITZPATRICK, the iron man of New Zealand rugby, finally admitted defeat yesterday. Fitzpatrick acknowledged in Auckland that the knee injury that has plagued him since last July would not permit him to resume playing and he has retired after 92 appearances for the All Blacks — the fourth-highest number of appearances in world rugby behind Philippe Sella (111), David Campese (101) and Serge Blanco (93).

Since his return to New Zealand from the tour of Britain last autumn, Fitzpatrick, 34, has worked to overcome the ligament damage sustained against South Africa in Johannesburg and exacerbated against Australia in Melbourne a week later. It speaks volumes for the Auckland hooker that he completed the tri-nations tournament and was able to lead New Zealand to Britain in November, when he made only two appearances, both as a replacement, and included his final international — against Wales at Wembley.

Now, rather than keeping alive his ambition to play in a fourth World Cup next year, he will retire to the ranks of New Zealand rugby legends where he belongs. The statistics fall as thick as the tributes to a man who, above all, represented the hard-nosed pragmatism of All-Black rugby yet was a moving spirit in the development of a team that, in the past three years, has played the most exciting rugby in the world.

He captained the All Blacks in 51 internationals, of which 41 were won and one drawn; he played a remarkable 63 consecutive Tests, before standing down during the 1995 World Cup, and participated in 74 victories during his New Zealand career, including the 1987 World Cup final. His 12 international tries are the fourth highest by a forward and only another unsmiling legend, Colin Meads with 361, made more first-class appearances in New Zealand than Fitzpatrick's 347.

Fitzpatrick was the archetypal modern hooker, with all the skills required both as a technician and in loose play, but there was no more competitive a player. He knew to the centimetre how far he could go to acquire an edge over an opponent and, in his younger days, occasionally went beyond it. Yet, after a hesitant start in 1992, he became an icon as captain of New Zealand, a comforting presence to colleagues and a thorn in the flesh of the opposition.



With his wife, Bronwyn, looking on, Fitzpatrick announces his retirement at a press conference in Auckland

land, a comforting presence to colleagues and a thorn in the flesh of the opposition. "It is not the perfect way to end," he said, "but I've had 30 years playing the game I love and the last 12 playing for arguably the greatest team in the world, the All Blacks. But I want to be able to enjoy my life after rugby and I think it is really important I can still walk around."

John Hart, who coached Fitzpatrick with Auckland and with New Zealand, ranked him alongside Meads as one of the great players of the past fifty years. "He is, in my view, the most professional of all professional rugby players," Hart said. "He leaves a huge hole in New Zealand rugby and particularly All Blacks rugby, a hole we will never fill because there is only one Sean."

"But if it was going to happen, it is better now than next year. I'm confident we have the depth to find a hooker of international quality and I'm confident the leadership we have grown in the team in the last two years will not leave as big a vacuum as it would have been." Jenny Shipley, New Zealand's Prime Minister, described Fitzpatrick as a "stunning" New Zealander. "There isn't a person who won't both admire what he's done and be sorry that his rugby career has ended," she said. "It was a career that began as a 'Baby Black' in 1966, when so many senior players decamped to South Africa to tour with the New Zealand Cavaliers, and ended with him as one of the most respected players in the world."

Fitzpatrick's retirement coincides with that of his Auckland colleague, Zinzan Brooke, and the knee injury to Justin Marshall that will prevent him from playing again this season. At one blow, therefore, the All Blacks have lost a hooker, No 8 and scrum half who will require replacing before the game against England in Dunedin on June 20.

Worcester make room for Hall

By Mark Souster

WORCESTER yesterday announced the appointment as first-team coach of Duncan Hall, the former Australia international, who until recently was at Leicester. Hall, 42, has signed a two-year contract with the ambitious club, who this season won promotion to the second division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership. Hall, Les Cusworth, the director of rugby, and Phil Maynard, who becomes director of rugby management, will form the senior management team at Worcester, who are looking to reach the first division within two years.

Richard Denhardt, the Moseley captain, is also joining the club from next season on a three-year contract. Others may be recruited as the club seeks to consolidate next year but there will not be an influx of highly paid players to Sixways. The squad that has served the club so well this season is being retained with more players becoming semi-professional, in addition to the 12 full-time players. Bath seek to end a depressing run of four consecutive defeats when they meet a

resurgent London Irish this evening at the Recreation Ground. Andy Robinson, the coach, has delayed naming his side until today but Andy Nicol, the captain, returns after being rested against Sale. Nicol, who had played 23 consecutive games before his omission, said: "It is hard to see what has gone wrong. Maybe we are trying too hard and need to relax." London Irish, who have won five of their past seven league games, make one enforced change from the team that started against Harlequins. Niall Hogan replaces Peter Richards, who has a broken jaw.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Henman resurfaces with clay-court win

■ TENNIS: Tim Henman, the British No 2, battled his way to a 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 victory over Jens Knippschild, of Germany, in the opening round of the BMW Open in Munich yesterday. The fourth seed is not comfortable on clay and suffered a first-round exit in the Monte Carlo Open last week, which dropped him to No 17 in the world rankings. Henman faltered after taking the opening set, allowing Knippschild to level, but then raced away with the decider. Greg Rusedski, the No 1 seed, faces Oliver Gross, also of Germany, today. □ Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge, the leading doubles pairing in the world, will compete at the Nottingham Open from June 15 to 20.

Walker Cup for Ganton

■ GOLF: The 2003 Walker Cup match between Great Britain and Ireland's amateurs and the United States is to be staged at Ganton, in Yorkshire. The course where the Americans narrowly won the Ryder Cup in 1949 is also to host the Curtis Cup in two years, after a switch from Royal Porthcawl, in Wales. The US defend the Walker Cup at Nairn, near Inverness, in September next year, their 18-6 victory in New York last August being the second-largest in the competition's 76-year history. They lead the series 31-4 but have been defeated twice in the past six meetings.

Lanham eyes reprieve

■ SPEEDWAY: Leigh Lanham, the deposed British under-21 champion, may compete in the world junior championship, after all. Lanham finished tenth with five points after a crash during the British final of this year's competition at Arena-Exeter on Friday night. With only five riders expected to qualify for the world championship stages, Lanham appeared to be eliminated as torn knee ligaments prevented him from taking his final ride. Britain, however, had reserved a sixth world championship place in case one of the country's best juniors should suffer as Lanham did.

Wave of disapproval

■ SWIMMING: A decision to introduce semi-finals for certain events at the 2000 Olympic Games has been criticised. Under new regulations set by FINA, the world governing body, events up to 200 metres will include a semi-final stage. At present the top eight swimmers from the heats qualify for the final. Don Talbot, the Australia head coach, said the move will disadvantage swimmers who compete in several events. Susie O'Neill, the Olympic and world champion, from Australia, said: "There's already enough swimming to watch without watching another race in between."

Uneasy Kafelnikov

■ TENNIS: Yevgeny Kafelnikov, of Russia, beat Jiri Novak, of the Czech Republic, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 to reach the second round of the Czech Open in Prague yesterday. Kafelnikov, seeded No 2, was stretched to the limit by his unseeded opponent. "The first match is always difficult, no matter whom you play," Kafelnikov said. Petr Korda, the top seed, who plays his first match today, could go to the top of the world rankings if he wins the event and Pete Sampras is beaten before the semi-final stage of a tournament in Atlanta.

Federation honours

■ BOWLS: Players who have enjoyed success in the Association code won national titles at the English Bowling Federation indoor championships at Newark. Jeff Newson, from Peterborough, the EIBA champion of champions in 1993, won the singles while Billy Jackson, a quarter-finalist in the world championships in January, helped Andy Hall take the pairs title for Lincolnshire. Ian Wones, runner-up in the EIBA national singles in 1995, and his Norfolk colleague, Sue Lee, won the mixed pairs.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

There is an old adage in Bridge to the effect that second hand plays low, third hand plays high, and fourth hand is on his own. Marek Szymanowski of Poland gave a fine deceptive example of the last point on the following hand, from the 1998 Cap Gemini Tournament. The Cap Gemini, won this year by Tony Forrester and Zia Mahmood, is one of the big three international invitation pairs events (along with the Macaulan and the Politiken).

Dealer West Love All IMPs

After two passes Szymanowski opened One Club as East. In the Polish Club system that can show a variety of hands, one of which is a weak No-Trump. With no further bidding from East-West, the Hackett twins arrived in Two No-Trumps after Jason Hackett (South) had shown a balanced hand with 15-17 points and a heart suit. Jason won the spade lead in his hand and played a heart to the nine — and Szymanowski took it with the king. Then he cleared the spades, and Jason not unnaturally repeated the finesse in hearts, allowing Szymanowski to score his

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene Chess Correspondent

Adams Wins

Today I give two further games from the interesting if one-sided match between grandmaster Michael Adams and international master Jonathan Rowson. Adams won four games with two draws and no losses.

White: Jonathan Rowson Black: Michael Adams London 1998 Sicilian Defence

Diagram of final position

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- ABLATION a. The showers b. Erosion c. In. by, with or from
- TRACER a. Barium metal b. Ammunition c. Space-probe
- ACROSOME a. A word puzzle b. An aircraft part c. A vesicle
- AGORDAT a. A disagreement b. Colonial war c. Knotted

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from Kotov - Borovnik, Leningrad, 1939. Both have a bishop on the long diagonal aimed at the king. The action of White's, however, is blunted by the pawn on f6. While Black's is unimpeded. How did Black demonstrate the value of this open line? The date given yesterday should have been 1948, not 1947. Solution page 50

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL: AMERICAN LEAGUE: Oakland 12 Baltimore 4, Texas 11 Kansas City 4, Minnesota 2, Seattle 0, Anaheim 2 Tampa Bay 1, Toronto 1 Chicago White Sox 6 (6 innings). Postponed: Boston v Cleveland; Detroit v NY Yankees.

FOOTBALL: Sunday's late results: FAI HAMP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: LUDS 5 Sligo Rovers 1; Cork City 2 Bohemians 1; St Patrick's Ath. 4 Dundalk 2.

NETBALL: INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: Middlesex 15 Essex Metropolitan 14.

REAL TENNIS: HOLYOPT: British women's open championship: Quarter-finals: S Jones (GB) vs A Ganeva (BG) 6-2, 6-1; K Allen (GB) vs F Deucher (AUS) 1-6, 6-2, 6-3.

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS: Pontefract: Goings good to soft (soft in places) 2.30 (1m) 1. Boldy Gales (P. Cadwaine, 20-1); 2. Goshawk (L. J. 3); 3. Leighton (E. 4); 4. H. H. H. (S. 5); 5. H. H. H. (S. 6); 6. H. H. H. (S. 7); 7. H. H. H. (S. 8); 8. H. H. H. (S. 9); 9. H. H. H. (S. 10); 10. H. H. H. (S. 11); 11. H. H. H. (S. 12); 12. H. H. H. (S. 13); 13. H. H. H. (S. 14); 14. H. H. H. (S. 15); 15. H. H. H. (S. 16); 16. H. H. H. (S. 17); 17. H. H. H. (S. 18); 18. H. H. H. (S. 19); 19. H. H. H. (S. 20); 20. H. H. H. (S. 21); 21. H. H. H. (S. 22); 22. H. H. H. (S. 23); 23. H. H. H. (S. 24); 24. H. H. H. (S. 25); 25. H. H. H. (S. 26); 26. H. H. H. (S. 27); 27. H. H. H. (S. 28); 28. H. H. H. (S. 29); 29. H. H. H. (S. 30); 30. H. H. H. (S. 31); 31. H. H. H. (S. 32); 32. H. H. H. (S. 33); 33. H. H. H. (S. 34); 34. H. H. H. (S. 35); 35. H. H. H. (S. 36); 36. H. H. H. (S. 37); 37. H. H. H. (S. 38); 38. H. H. H. (S. 39); 39. H. H. H. (S. 40); 40. H. H. H. (S. 41); 41. H. H. H. (S. 42); 42. H. H. 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FOOTBALL: REFEREES ACCUSED OF FAVOURING JUVENTUS

Ronaldo cries foul over Turin conspiracy theory

ON THE television screens above the diners in Urbani, the unassuming city centre restaurant favoured by Juventus and its players, the scenes of chaos and controversy from the match between the Italian champions and Internazionale on Sunday were repeated over and over again. In Urbani, they smiled as they ate. But the rest of the country felt anger and disgust.

The controversy centred on an incident in the seventieth minute of the match that was effectively a championship play-off between the two leading teams in Serie A. Juventus were leading 1-0, with a goal from Alessandro Del Piero when Ronaldo, Inter's young Brazilian striker and widely acknowledged as the best player in the world, was brought down in the penalty area by the most blatant of fouls.

When the referee waved play on, Gigi Simoni, the Inter coach, was so enraged that he rushed on to the pitch and had to be ushered off. Juventus worked the ball to the other end, where Del Piero fell when there appeared to have been no contact between him and his marker. This time, Piero Ceccarini, the referee, pointed to the spot. He was immediately surrounded

By OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

by the entire Inter team and a mêlée of shoving, jostling and finger-pointing ensued. Massimo Moratti, the Inter president, walked out of the stadium in protest. It hardly seemed to matter that Del Piero missed the penalty. Juventus held their lead and now lead the championship by four points with three games to go.

Yesterday, though, there was more uproar when Ronaldo angrily suggested that Juventus had more than their own formidable playing talents working in their favour. He railed against the fact that the odds seemed to be stacked in favour of Juventus and hinted that he might leave Italian football if the situation was not addressed.

Such accusations are not uncommon in football, but these suggestions seem to be more fundamental. And when it is Ronaldo making the accusations and Juventus — the most powerful, best-supported club in Italy — are about to appear in their third consecutive European Cup final, then the excitement and the controversy reaches fever pitch.

"Shame on the referee," Ronaldo, who has already been fined once this season for similar comments, said. "The whole world saw what happened and it cannot go on like this, that the decisions of the referees are always in favour of Juventus. Everybody else saw Juliano's foul on me, but we know Juventus benefit from favouritism. Now, enough is enough."

"They can punish me again, they can give me another fine, but I will not stay silent. Football is about happiness, but you can only be happy if it is 11 against 11. When it is 11 against 12, football becomes sad. I feel like crying."

La Gazzetta dello Sport, the daily sports newspaper in Italy, openly followed the subterfuge line and suggested that this had not been "the cleanest of championships". They pointed to other decisions that had gone the way of Juventus this year, most recently a goal against them by Empoli last week that has been proven to have crossed the line, but was not given.

Moratti said: "It cannot be a coincidence that they always give the decisions in favour of Juventus. It is the rule. It is not the exception."



Ceccarini, the referee, is besieged by Inter players on Sunday

Burley praises his marathon men

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

TOP FIVE

FOOTBALL managers, when asked why their side has made such a poor start to the season, often refer to time-honoured mode: "It's not a sprint, it's a marathon." The answer may be uninspiring, but it remains a truism. Ask Peter Reid or George Burley.

Reid, the Sunderland manager, and Burley, the Ipswich Town manager, possibly uttered the immortal phrase at least once at the start of this season. Sunderland lost three of their first four matches in the Nationwide League first division. Ipswich, after 16 games, lay in 21st place.

When they meet at Portman Road tonight, Sunderland will be trying to enhance their prospects of automatic promotion, while Ipswich have already secured a place in the play-offs. Sunderland have won 11 of their past 18 league games. Ipswich 14 of 18.

"We didn't start too well, we were quite poor," Burley said yesterday. "It's all gradually come together and although we've suffered a bit with injuries, the players and everyone at the club deserve enormous credit."

The sides could meet again in the play-offs. If Sunderland stumble in their last two fixtures, or could face Sheffield United, who

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottm Forest	45	28	9	8	81	41	83
Sunderland	44	25	12	7	84	47	87
Charlton	45	26	9	10	80	49	87
Middlesbrough	44	26	9	9	72	39	87
Ipswich	44	21	14	9	72	41	77

play the first of three away games in six days when they visit Tranmere Rovers this evening. They need four points to book a play-off place but will be without Alan Kelly, their goalkeeper, who requires surgery on a torn cartilage. Simon Traylor replaces him.

Mica Vranes, 22, a left-sided midfielder with Vojvodina, the Yugoslavian first division club, has been linked with Newcastle United. "My contract is until 2000 but I've been discussing a move and I'm practically there," Vranes said yesterday. "I think Newcastle will suit me and I wouldn't have any problems adapting."

West Ham United hope to sign Mark Keller, the France midfielder player, this week. Keller plays for Karlsruhe in the Bundesliga, but, under the Bosman ruling, will be available on a free transfer at the end of the season.

Teaching need to broaden the game-plan

By MEL WEZBS

THE Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour (JGT) has been one of the success stories of the Nineties among young players. But what of those who are not quite good enough, those who do not have the technique to go with their love for the game? It is to these young people that the JGT is now turning.

Colin Springate, the energetic executive director of the JGT, which is run in association with *The Times*, is constantly seeking to improve the lot of junior golfers and his latest brainchild is a play to take the tour off the fairways and into the classroom.

The JGT Education initiative, which has just been announced, is a scheme that will award educational computer packages to the schools and colleges of young golfers who have a record of solid academic achievement. "We recognise that many young golfers are concentrating far too much on their game to the detriment of their studies," Springate said.

"If it is easy for us to assess just how much work youngsters are putting into their golf, but it is almost impossible to identify the degree of effort that they are putting into their studies at the most important time, academically, of their lives. It is this aspect of our care for young golfers that we are now addressing."

The initiative will invite head teachers or principals of every school and college in the United Kingdom to nominate one student as their representative to compete for the award of the educational packages. These will consist of computers, software and books to be given to those schools as a reward for the academic achievement of their nominees. Adobe, the computer software giant, which has joined the JGT as a sponsor this year, will be playing a leading part in the plan.

The crucial link with golf will be maintained in that the students nominated must be junior members of a golf club. However, their degree of golfing ability will be irrelevant.

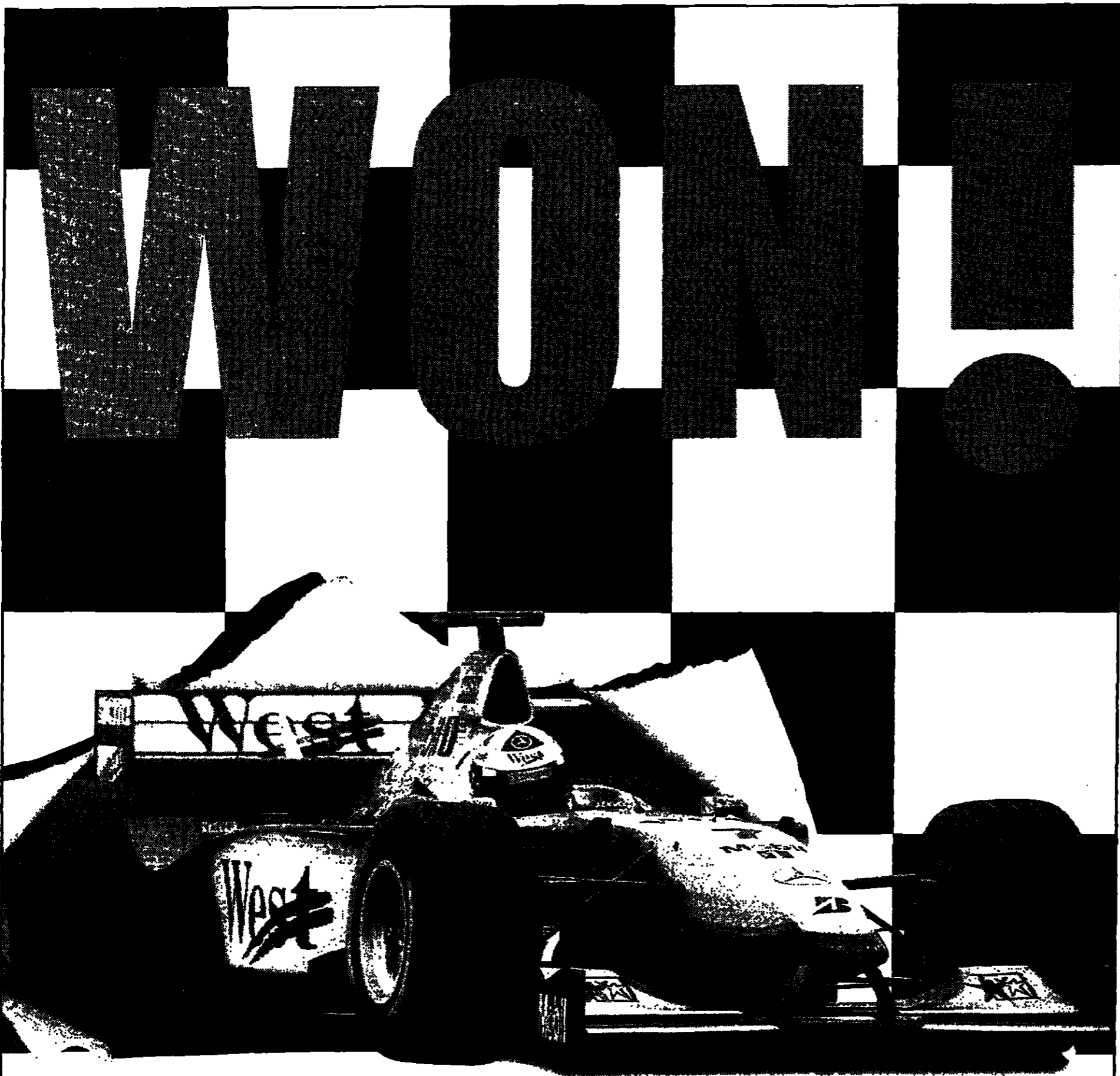
"We are determined to promote equal opportunity through this scheme," Springate said. "For example, the committee may regard a youngster from an inner-city school who has managed one GCSE pass as having achieved more than another from a more privileged background who has achieved better overall grades."

The JGT's leading role will continue to be the encouragement of high golfing talent, but it is our duty to promote education alongside golf. If we are not careful, we will be raising a generation of young golfers who may be ignoring their education to chase the elusive dream of making a career as a professional. We think the time has come to address that."

Springate's crusade to improve the lot of young golfers has also resulted in the announcement of plans to develop a series of tournaments for those whose age prevents their continued participation in the JGT. The Prospects Tour will be launched in 1999. "Over the past two or three years, dozens of youngsters have appealed to me to create a tournament for them to play in when they are no longer eligible to play in the main competition," he said.

"The volume of similar requests, coupled with my own conviction that many young men turn professional too soon into their golfing careers, has persuaded me to set up this tour."

"I don't want to dissuade anybody from turning profes-



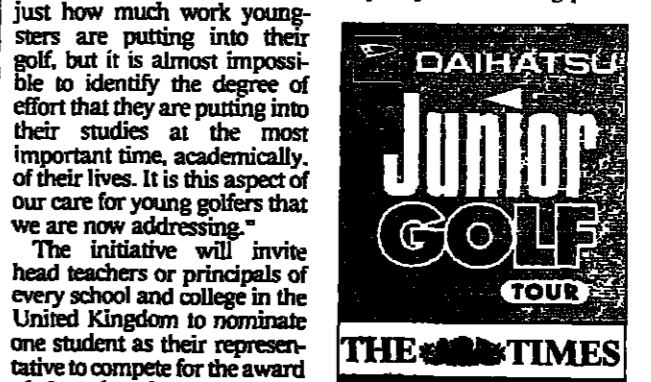
Victory
for
Bridgestone and West McLaren Mercedes.



1st Team : West McLaren Mercedes
1st Driver : David Coulthard
Tyre : Bridgestone



BRIDGESTONE



ional: I'm just anxious that they don't do it too soon. My aim is to give them top-class competition on high-quality courses to allow them to take more time to assess their prospects of making a living from the game before sacrificing their amateur status."

Players on the new tour, who will have to be under the age of 21, will be able to play in eight 36-hole tournaments, all over two days, most of them at weekends to reduce the disruption to their working lives and all of them scheduled to avoid the leading amateur competitions in the UK, such as the Lytham, Berkshire and Brabazon Trophies.

Support is being sought from the British golf unions while David Leadbetter, the world's best-known golf coach and a patron of the JGT, is wholeheartedly behind the plan. Both of these initiatives deserve to succeed. If Springate, one of the country's leading standard-bearers for the cause of junior golf, is involved, they will.

LATEST SCORES

NATIONAL TOUR (Tombury, April 20): 86: W Shroton (Glenbrook) 72; C Swenson (Whitington Heath) 71; D Bauer (Mantworth) 73; A Colley (Aldbrook Park) 75; G White (Glossop and District); D Hows (Kenilworth); K Mcintosh (Elfringham); G Lockyer (Parsly) 78; P Hayward (Bathurst); 77: S Azzam (Tegrynouth); D Hodgson (Elfringham); D Bell (Leigh); S Gabbas (Hornsea); T Whittaker (Conington); Kelling (Weyger); A Gay (Whitchurch); 78: J Oble (Canterbury Heath); S Mulford (Lyne Regis); J Bennett (Trevose); 79: D Birch (Hail)

SCOTTISH TOUR (Lundin, April 21): 72: L Harper (Musselburgh) 74; G Duncan (Auchincloss) 77; M O'Brien (Muirfield); 78: S Fieble (Lundin) 79; D Slescher (Morrocco); B Mackay (Aberfeldy); A McVay (Barnstans); G Elliot (Barnstans); D Head (Windsor)

SOUTHERN TOUR (Mornings Heath, April 12): 72: M Ebor (West Essex) 73; P Barrow (North Cotford); B Dipe (St George's Park); S McAnally (Langdon Hills); 74: T Preece (Lobbury); G Wilman (Cambridge Heath); C Ousack (Canterbury Heath); 76: D Norton (Parsly); 78: D Head (Weyger); 78: T Abbott (Wilton Heath); 77: B Wilman (Canterbury Heath); R Christian (Beacons-

field); J Rogers (Mornings Heath); A Sams (Piscobrook); L Pouter (Dunwood Manor); D Childs (Parsly Heath); G Dewes (Beaconsfield); C Gobby (Dunstable Downs); D Farweather (Bury St Edmunds); B Kent (Windsor and Gosport)

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Silverwood strong to England
Adams adver
BRITANNIC A

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Silverwood stakes strong claim to England place

HEADINGLEY (final day of four): Yorkshire (22pts) beat Derbyshire (2) by 111 runs

IF Chris Silverwood continues to bowl like this, his selection for the first Test match at Edgbaston in five weeks will be a formality. The fast bowler led Yorkshire to a swift demolition of Derbyshire yesterday that put them top of the Britannia Assurance county championship. Derbyshire, set 322 in 91 overs, were all out for 210 by mid-afternoon. Silverwood, bowling with pace and accuracy, took four for 42.

He has taken 14 wickets for 166 runs in two championship matches, both at Headingley and both won by Yorkshire. In every innings he has made early inroads and the only shame of this game was that his captain, David Byas, lacked the courage to forge on to victory unaided.

Leatherdale falls one short of his century

LEICESTER (final day of four): Leicestershire won toss; Leicestershire (3pts) draw with Worcestershire (3pts)

THERE have been more meaningless cricket matches, but not many. After three days of rain, and the unwillingness of the captains to contrive a finish, Worcestershire concerned themselves only with batting practice. Philip Weston made 77 in 76 overs and David Leatherdale was out a run short of a century just before the close.

Having been put in and lost two early wickets, Worcestershire could hardly have been blamed for not looking to declare. Had it been later in the season, the two captains might have contemplated splitting the 96 allotted overs, but not on this occasion.

Besides, nobody was quite certain who the two captains were. Lewis, who has re-

Durham resistance broken by Walsh

CHESTER-LE-STREET (final day of four): Gloucestershire (22pts) beat Durham (4) by 46 runs

COURTNEY WALSH, rarely separated from his ski-hat on the washed-out opening day, flourished in the comparatively dazzling North East sunshine yesterday, returning second-innings figures of six for 42 in his first match at Riverside. His final wicket, that of Harrison, caught behind, completed victory for Gloucestershire with 19 balls to spare.

The pitch, originally intended for the Sunday league game, yielded 16 wickets in the day, which had an innings of 74 from Nick Speak, his second successive championship half-century, all the more meritorious.

Speak faced 181 balls but his dismissal, bowled leg and middle off a pad, by Ball, ended Durham's slender victory hopes. They had been generously set 248 to win in 74 overs by Alleyne, who doubtless built an adverse weather forecast into his equation.

Rain did intervene at a tantalising time, trimming two overs from the allocation

Surrey sprint back towards summit

THE OVAL (final day of four): Surrey (24pts) beat Warwickshire (3) by an innings and 49 runs

SURREY flexed their muscles impressively in this match and, by bowling out Warwickshire for 149 in less than a day to rain, they effectively drew up their manifesto for the season, appropriately enough before the cricket-loving MP for Huntingdon.

A man who grew up at the Oval, John Major will fondly recall the Surrey teams that won seven successive championships in the Fifties. Since then they have won a single title, in 1971, and the challenge of restoring them to the summit is one that stimulates Adam Holoake. With a well-balanced bowling attack and good batsmen at the top of the order, Surrey stand on the cusp.

Salisbury, the wrist spinner, took six wickets in the match. Bicknell went one better, taking five yesterday, four of them when he switched to the Vauxhall End after lunch and made the ball out at a decent pace. Warwickshire, who were 100 for two when Lara was



Lara, one of the few Warwickshire batsmen to delay Surrey, takes runs off the bowling of Salisbury yesterday

Durham resistance broken by Walsh

TAUNTON (final day of four): Somerset (5pts) draw with Nottinghamshire (7pts)

FOR a time, it looked as though the forfeiture of an innings by each team, after Somerset's last two wickets had taken their first innings to 255, might make a game of it (Jack Bailey writes).

Nottinghamshire had been left with a possible 74 overs to make the runs, but two heavy showers put paid to all that. Judging from the nine overs Caddick and Rose did manage, perhaps it was just as well for the visitors. Pollard and Dowman followed suit to one nipping ball at him.

Marsh's inspiration in vain

CARDIFF (final day of four): Glamorgan (7pts) drew with Kent (4)

ENERGETIC and imaginative captaincy from Steve Marsh yesterday brought Kent close, but not quite close enough, to victory over the only county to finish above them last season.

The feasibility of combining leadership with wicketkeeping is topical, with Alec Stewart in line for the England captaincy. Marsh showed how it could be done. He managed well last season and play yesterday was inspired by his constant and inspired bowling changes and various fieldings with the field.

That both he and Matthew Maynard were prepared to risk

Adams advertises credentials

CHELMSFORD (final day of four): Essex (9pts) drew with Sussex (11)

CHRIS ADAMS was the only winner at the County Ground yesterday when his second century of the match not only established his credentials as Sussex captain but also enhanced his prospects of playing for England in the forthcoming one-day internationals against South Africa.

Adams had just become only the sixth Sussex batsman since the war to score two hundreds in the same game when rain brought an early end to a match that was going nowhere anyway. Essex's decision to bat on in forlorn pursuit of maximum bonus points on Saturday night had already made

Showers hold up Somerset

SOMERSET v Nottinghamshire

SOMERSET: First Innings
 P D Bowler c Dowman b Bowen 0
 P C L Halsey c Pollard b Bowen 29
 K A Parsons c White b Bowen 0
 R J Haslam c Noon b Bowen 36
 S G Eccles c Pollard b Bowen 31
 P J Turner b Bowen 45
 A R Parnell c Gatten b White 7
 M E Haselwood b White 6
 S G Gifford c Bowen 18
 K J Shine b Bowen 18
 Extras (b 2, w 2) 20
 Total (38.4 overs) 255

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-8, 3-38, 4-38, 5-69, 6-100, 7-109, 8-179, 9-232, 10-248, 11-255
 BOWLING: Bowen 27-4-8-73; Franks 12-4-5-3; White 15-3-3-3; String 8-3-30-4; Gifford 5-2-4-0

Second Innings: 0-0 (0 overs)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings
 P R Pollard b Caddick 10
 P R Haslam c Caddick 10
 J E R Gatten not out 0
 P Johnson not out 0
 Extras (b 2, w 2) 20
 Total (28.4 overs) 40

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-16, 3-16, 4-16, 5-16, 6-16, 7-16, 8-16, 9-16, 10-16, 11-16
 BOWLING: Caddick 5-3-7-1; Rose 4-2-9-1
 Umpires: T E Jesty and M J Kitchan

Marsh's inspiration in vain

YORKSHIRE v Derbyshire

HEADINGLEY (final day of four): Yorkshire (22pts) beat Derbyshire (2) by 111 runs

YORKSHIRE: First Innings 352 for 5 (48.4 overs)
 M J Wood 103, D Byas 103

Second Innings
 A McHugh not out 83
 M P Vaughan not out 63
 Extras (b 2, w 4) 4
 Total (28.4 overs) 106

BOWLING: Coak 3-0-15-0; Harris 2-0-10-0; May 3-0-61-0; Tewas 3-0-29-0

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings 136 for 5 (48.4 overs)
 M J Bennett 55 not out; C E W Silverwood 5 (38)

Second Innings
 A S Rollins c Wood b White 63
 T A Twiss c Bailey b Silverwood 5
 K J Barnett c Bailey b Silverwood 68
 C Essex b White 0
 I D Blackwell c Bailey b White 3
 D G Cook b Silverwood 21
 P A J Desforges c Bailey b Hutchison 12
 P Added not out 3
 A J Harris b Gough 4
 Extras (b 4, w 2) 20
 Total (28.4 overs) 119

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-6, 3-38, 4-136, 5-160, 6-143, 7-174, 8-203, 9-205

BOWLING: Gough 9-0-46-2; Silverwood 13-5-42-4; Hutchison 10-2-44-1; Vaughan 7-3-19-0; White 15-1-19-3

Umpires: K E Palmer and G Champ

NO PLAY YESTERDAY. Old Trafford: Manchester 205-4-11; Luton 88, 0-4; Southampton 64, 10-1; Lancashire (1pt)

BRITANNIA ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP SCOREBOARDS

Durham v Gloucestershire

RIVERSIDE (final day of four): Gloucestershire (22pts) beat Durham (4) by 46 runs

GLoucestershire: First Innings 227 (79.4 overs)
 C Russell 60, M W Alleyne 51, S J Harrison 3 (70)

Second Innings
 N J Turner c Speight b Harrison 17
 R J Curran c Speight b Wood 24
 H C Hancock b Harrison 20
 M W Alleyne b Harrison 20
 R C Balfour b Wood 2
 R J Dawson not out 29
 M W Alleyne b Harrison 0
 R C Balfour b Wood 2
 M C Ball not out 22
 Extras (b 2, w 4, nb 2) 22
 Total (96.4 overs) 108

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-33, 2-47, 3-47, 4-53, 5-53, 6-66, 7-66, 8-66, 9-66, 10-66, 11-66

BOWLING: Wood 15-2-48-3; Harrison 14-3-32-3; Phillips 2-0-7-0; Boon 2-0-10-0

DURHAM: First Innings 143

Second Innings
 J J B Leese b Walsh 0
 M A Roseberry b Walsh 0
 J E Morris c Hancock b Walsh 12
 N J Spink b Ball 12
 D C Boon b Walsh 29
 M P Speight b Walsh 29
 P D Collymore c Curran b Ball 10
 N C Phillips b Walsh 35
 J Wood b Ball 7
 A Walker not out 2
 S J Harrison c Russell b Walsh 17
 Extras (b 3, w 14, nb 1) 17
 Total (104.4 overs) 201

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-135, 3-168, 4-173, 5-115, 6-132, 7-188, 8-188, 9-188, 10-188, 11-188

BOWLING: Walsh 18-5-42-6; Smith 15-2-52-0; Ball 20-5-53-3; Lewis 14-2-45-1; Dawson 1-0-5-0

Umpires: R A White and P Willey

Gloucestershire v Kent

CARDIFF (final day of four): Gloucestershire (22pts) drew with Kent (4)

KENT: First Innings 166 (D P Fulton 61)

Second Innings
 D P Fulton not out 71
 M J Bailey not out 10
 T R Ward b Dale 10
 C J Hooper not out 45
 S D Thomas b Hooper 1
 Extras (b 4, w 4) 4
 Total (33.4 overs) 142

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-45, 3-57, 4-57, 5-57, 6-57, 7-57, 8-57, 9-57, 10-57, 11-57

BOWLING: Wadsworth 7-2-41-3; Thomas 6-1-20-1; Baister 3-0-14-0; Dale 5-2-13-2; Coles 1-0-2-0; Cook 5-1-12-0; Meynard 1-0-16-0; Shaw 1-0-7-0

GLoucestershire: First Innings 83 for 3 (30.4 overs)

Second Innings
 S P James b Hooper 18
 A J Evans c Fulton b Phillips 17
 A Dale c Fleming b Hooper 54
 M P Maynard c Marsh b Fleming 9
 P A Cooley c Headley b Hooper 27
 G P Butler b Hooper 42
 R D Croft not out 16
 I A D Shaw c Headley b Fleming 15
 S D Thomas b Hooper 1
 D A Coaker not out 0
 Extras (b 5, w 4, nb 4) 13
 Total (36.4 overs) 212

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-30, 2-47, 3-83, 4-117, 5-146, 6-154, 7-201, 8-212, 9-212, 10-212, 11-212

BOWLING: Hooper 15-5-55-2; Hooper 10-0-20-0; Eastham 9-2-30-0; Phillips 10-0-21-0; Hooper 11-4-29-2; Fleming 5-2-24-2

GLoucestershire: S P James, A W Evans, A Dale, M P Maynard, P A Cooley, D B Thomas, G P Butler, I A D Shaw, S D Thomas, H D Bird and J W Holder

Umpires: H D Bird and J W Holder

Leicestershire v Worcestershire

LEICESTERSHIRE (Leicestershire won toss; Leicestershire (3pts) draw with Worcestershire (3pts))

Worcestershire: First Innings
 W P C Weston c Simmons b Brimston 77
 V S Solanki c Maddy b Milne 9
 A H Rich b Milne 10
 G H Hayes c Simmons b Lewis 16
 M J Moody c Smith b Lewis 16
 D A Leatherdale c Lewis b Brimston 96

Leicestershire: First Innings
 J S Lacey b Malcolm 9
 G W White c Ripley b Malcolm 9
 R A Smith b Malcolm 67
 M J Wood c Smith b Bailey 41
 W S Kendall c Lloyds b Rose 22
 P S Spence c Ripley b Rose 11
 K D James c Ripley b Malcolm 54
 I A N Ayres not out 15
 S D Uddin b Malcolm 0
 S J Rowanah not out 10
 Extras (b 4, w 16, nb 19) 39
 Total (58.4 overs) 193

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-12, 3-23, 4-26, 5-160, 6-170, 7-189, 8-179, 9-232, 10-248, 11-255

BOWLING: Malcolm 21-4-60-3; Rose 15-5-47-2; Taylor 15-5-29-0; Durran 8-1-19-0; G P Sierra 13-5-15-0; Bailey 2-1-1-1

Umpires: J W Lloyds and N T Pews

Somerset v Nottinghamshire

TAUNTON (final day of four): Somerset (5pts) draw with Nottinghamshire (7pts)

SOMERSET: First Innings
 P D Bowler c Dowman b Bowen 0
 P C L Halsey c Pollard b Bowen 29
 K A Parsons c White b Bowen 0
 R J Haslam c Noon b Bowen 36
 S G Eccles c Pollard b Bowen 31
 P J Turner b Bowen 45
 A R Parnell c Gatten b White 7
 M E Haselwood b White 6
 S G Gifford c Bowen 18
 K J Shine b Bowen 18
 Extras (b 2, w 2) 20
 Total (38.4 overs) 255

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-8, 3-38, 4-38, 5-69, 6-100, 7-109, 8-179, 9-232, 10-248, 11-255

BOWLING: Bowen 27-4-8-73; Franks 12-4-5-3; White 15-3-3-3; String 8-3-30-4; Gifford 5-2-4-0

Second Innings: 0-0 (0 overs)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings
 P R Pollard b Caddick 10
 P R Haslam c Caddick 10
 J E R Gatten not out 0
 P Johnson not out 0
 Extras (b 2, w 2) 20
 Total (28.4 overs) 40

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-16, 3-16, 4-16, 5-16, 6-16, 7-16, 8-16, 9-16, 10-16, 11-16

BOWLING: Caddick 5-3-7-1; Rose 4-2-9-1

Umpires: T E Jesty and M J Kitchan

Essex v Sussex

CHELMSFORD (final day of four): Essex (9pts) drew with Sussex (11)

SUSSEX: First Innings 269 (C J Adams 85, A P Cooney 65)

Second Innings
 R K Reid b Cooney 0
 M T E Pearce c Hussain b Irani 45
 C J Adams b Irani 185
 J Cooney b Irani 9
 K Niswani not out 0
 K Niswani not out 0
 Extras (b 3, w 14, nb 6) 13
 Total (104.4 overs) 173

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-135, 3-168, 4-173, 5-115, 6-132, 7-188, 8-188, 9-188, 10-188, 11-188

BOWLING: Cooney 6-3-32-1; Williams 10-1-20-4; Irani 4-1-17-0; Smith 4-0-29-0; Irani 11-2-24-3; Grayson 10-2-24-3

Essex: First Innings 269 (C J Adams 85, A P Cooney 65)

Umpires: J H Harris and R Palmer

WORLD CUP TICKETS.

For an easy route to World Cup matches - see next Monday's Times.

Malcolm thrives on fresh pasture

By BARNEY SPENDER

SOUTHAMPTON (final day of four): Hampshire (5pts) drew with Northamptonshire (5)

IF A change is as good as a rest, then a move away from Derby appears to be a miracle cure. Down at Hove, Chris Adams has taken to his new role as Sussex captain with some relish, while Devon Malcolm, the other high-profile departure from last season's divided dressing-room, made an excellent early impression for his new county with the kind of performance that may well attract the selectors.

Looking fit and fresh after a winter away from cricket, Malcolm, who played four Tests last summer before being overlooked for the West Indies tour, bowled with pace and direction on a sluggish pitch to collect five for 60 and take Northamptonshire to within a whisker of victory. That they were unable to complete the task says as much about Malcolm's back-up as it does about the resolute Hampshire rearguard.

Some contrivance in the morning allowed Northants to set Hampshire the task of scoring 276 in 76 overs. It was a reasonable target but, by lunch, Malcolm had ruled a Hampshire win out of the equation with three wickets in 21 balls. After finding the edge of White's bat, he ripped through Lacey's defence and deprived Smith of his mid-innings stumps. When Rose chipped a catch to give Butcher a wicket he will savour, only Kemp, with 37, resisted for long.

Holloake began the day by declaring Surrey's first innings, which brought 405 runs at four an over, in order to give his bowlers the best chance of a victory and by tea they had trussed up Warwickshire good and proper. The return of Saqain Mushtaq and Alex Tudor will strengthen their hand.

The captain was most impressed by their batting on Saturday, when Thorpe added a hundred to the nineties of Ratcliffe and Shahid. "Last year we didn't get past 350 before the middle of June," Holloake said, "and we have already collected maximum batting points twice this season."

That left the door open for Malcolm and he responded by removing James and Udal in successive deliveries, before Aymes stood firm to see Hampshire to safety.

Malcolm: five wickets

Malcolm: five wickets

Malcolm took five wickets for 60 runs in his first match at Southampton. He bowled with pace and direction on a sluggish pitch to collect five for 60 and take Northamptonshire to within a whisker of victory.

Adams advertises credentials

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Chris Adams was the only winner at the County Ground yesterday when his second century of the match not only established his credentials as Sussex captain but also enhanced his prospects of playing for England in the forthcoming one-day internationals against South Africa.

Showers hold up Somerset

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For a time, it looked as though the forfeiture of an innings by each team, after Somerset's last two wickets had taken their first innings to 255, might make a game of it (Jack Bailey writes).

Marsh's inspiration in vain

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ENERGETIC and imaginative captaincy from Steve Marsh yesterday brought Kent close, but not quite close enough, to victory over the only county to finish above them last season.

On the trail of compassion and humour

When glimpsed only through news-headline soundbites and an often hostile press, the Rev Ian Paisley can often come across as a bull-headed, bullying, dogmatic, noisy, narcissistic, intolerant and intolerable bigot. So good goodness he has now been given the opportunity of a long documentary which — by allowing us to hear him chatting freely outside the constricting, soundbite politics of Westminster and Ulster, and speaking at leisure about his own private passions — has enabled us to see that our first impressions about him could have been wrong: they might have underestimated the awfulness of the man.

In *Witness: Dr Paisley, I Presume* (Channel 4), Ron Jonson, who previously made *Tottenham Ayatollah* for the *Witness* series, trailed Paisley on one of his week-long missionary trips to Africa. He has been making these trips for 12 years, ever since the American evangelist Dr Bob Jones — who was cut from the same Liberal-hating cloth as Paisley — asked him to visit the Cameroon fundametalists. For Paisley, this is heaven. He starts preaching to his welcoming party of the masses, his plane has touched down in Cameroon, and continues to bellow his fire-and-brimstone gospel to the locals three times a day, without flagging, for the rest of the week, as though administering a course of antibiotics against the Devil.

Now, according to the Rev David McIvener, Paisley's devoted companion and the head of Paisley's missionary board, Paisley "has a tremendous heart of compassion, very generous in spirit, and also a tremendous sense of humour", but then McIvener himself is so compassionate that he is a leading light of the Save Ulster From Sodomy campaign. Paisley does have compassion, generosity



and humour — but you might need sensitive, Nasa-quality measuring devices to detect them. He moves with the grace of an octopus on an ice rink, and displays the sense of humour of the village pub bore. He chatters incessantly, producing a noise like that indecipherable whine of a television playing at Zam in a neighbouring hotel room.

Germany calling. "As for compassion, when his translator, Joseph, arrived one hour late one morning, Paisley forced him to confess his 'sin' repeatedly in front of every new congregation they met. Another time, Paisley punished the film crew for some minor transgression by making them stay in their hotel rooms and miss supper. When Ronson, still struggling to bond, mentioned that he and

Paisley were perhaps a modern Stanley and Livingstone, the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party replied, tartly: "Livingstone opened Africa... Stanley, as a journalist, took all the glory." You wouldn't have thought Paisley would have minded Stanley stealing all the glory, since he kept telling us that he was a humble man. But through his seemingly unrelenting questioning, Ronson quietly exposed Paisley as a man who, however humble he himself might be, always makes sure that those in his entourage — whether they be his deputy, his translator, or the accompanying film crew — are left in no doubt that their prime duty is to just that bit more humble. And they all oblige, too, because everyone is afraid of angering Paisley in any way. With gratitude and humility," said Ronson, "we behaved just as he wanted. It's what you might call 'presence'. Or 'bullying'."

Nessie, because if Nessie had been found it would have been all over the papers by now; and Tony Blair would be telling us: "This is not a time for soundbite politics, but the hand of history is pointing out to us a best even more mysterious than Ken Livingstone."

So you just have to sit and watch, and hope that it's better to travel than to arrive. In television that's a difficult trick to pull off. You may have to resort to splicing the commentary to keep anticipation fizzing. "Despite the history of hoaxes and despite the scarcity of fish to support the presence of large predators," the narrator told us, "there does seem to be evidence of something large and unexplained beneath the surface." The only problem is that these Americans didn't find it either. But if you ever have to take an exam in Nessie Studies, this film would provide a handy cramming tool.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (28867)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (61751)
 - 9.00 Change That (505480)
 - 9.25 Kilroy (1) (4973916)
 - 10.05 Style Challenge Model Erin O'Connor's sister Claire gets a makeover (1046883)
 - 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (5282886)
 - 10.55 The Really Useful Show (1) (9074003)
 - 11.35 The General (4707684)
 - 12.00 News (1) (2151883)
 - 12.05pm The Entertainment Game (3443916)
 - 12.35 Wipeout (2492828)
 - 1.00 News (1) and weather (91138)
 - 1.30 Regional News (1) (7758815)
 - 1.40 The Weather Show (84192645)
 - 1.45 Neighbours (1) (9257579)
 - 2.10 Lion Country A baby walley gets five-star treatment as a new arrival in Pets' Corner, while Mara the lioness is separated from the pride to protect her unborn cub (620883)
 - 2.35 Snooker: World Championship David Vine introduces coverage of the last two quarter-finals (3196119)
 - 3.30 Rupert (1) (9161885) 3.35 Playdays (1) (1930933) 3.55 Arthur (1941409) 4.20 Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (1) (7808770) 4.35 Out of Tune (1) (8209480) 5.00 Newsworld (1) (5429428)
 - 5.10 The Lowdown Youngsters living in the shadow of Colorado's Aspen Mountain (1) (2578549)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (441916)
 - 6.00 News (1) and weather (683)
 - 6.30 Regional News (1) (935)
 - 7.00 Holiday: Fasten Your Seatbelt Monty Don visits Universal Studios in Florida to become a stunt man (1) (279)
 - 7.30 EastEnders Mark gets emotional over Ruth's HIV test. Pauline and Nigel investigate the root of Dot's strange behaviour (1) (119)
 - 8.00 Children's Hospital A four-year-old boy endures drastic treatment to cure his club-foot. A baby has an operation to remove a fused bone in her skull; a ten-year-old with an erratic heartbeat is fitted with a pacemaker (1) (8119)
 - 8.30 Wildlife on One: Birds in Black Study of ravens around the world. David Attenborough attempts to shatter some of the myths surrounding these creatures (1) (463)
 - 9.00 News (1) and weather (7848)
 - 9.30 999 How a yachtman braved a violent storm to rescue a fellow sailor; a newly trained bomb-disposal officer's close encounter with an unexploded wartime device (1) (784393)
 - 10.20 Children of Crime: Wasted Years Examination of the punitive approved school system; designed to keep young offenders out of trouble (1) (115405)
 - 11.15 Out on a Limb An upworldly mobile guy who answers a call for help from his stranded little sister and suffers a series of adventures while trying to rescue her. Directed by Francis Verber (1) (369206)
 - 12.30am Weather (4812707)
 - 12.35 BBC News 24
- VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes**
- The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, numbers which allow you to programme your video recorder directly with a VideoPlus+ decoder. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (V), PlusCode (P) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

- BBC2**
- 6.10am Angelica Kaufman, RA (3271503)
 - 6.35 The Colonial Encounter (675848)
 - 7.00 Teletubbies (1) (2575119) 7.25 Tom and Jerry Kids (2587954) 7.50 Blue Peter (1) (1) (5732157) 8.15 Yogi's Treasure Hunt (1047634) 8.35 Paddington Bear (403694)
 - 8.45 The Record (4103654) 9.10 Susanne (5838654) 9.30 Pathways of Belief (3236596) 9.45 Numberline (3242745) 10.00 Teletubbies (44732)
 - 10.30 Watch (9118664) 10.45 Science Zone (8249886) 11.05 Space Ark (9688935) 11.15 Zig Zag Summer Extras (5942225) 11.35 History File (4705206) 12.00 Core Sci (92119) 12.30pm Wrestling Lunch (18732) 1.00 Firmsam Sam (1) (8327979)
 - 1.10 Snooker: World Championship Highlights (8574393)
 - 2.35 News (2786516) 2.40 Westminster (1666886) 3.25 News (1) (2884374)
 - 3.30 Snooker: World Championship Continued coverage (150886)
 - 5.15 Racing from Ascot Coverage of the 6.30, 6.00 and 6.30 races (928119)
 - 6.45 Snooker: World Championship Further coverage of the quarter-finals (592848)
 - 7.30 Home Ground New series of investigative documentaries, beginning with a woman's campaign to set up the UK's first national skin bank (1) (461)
- Derek Jacobi revisits Devon (8pm)**
- 8.00 One Foot in the Past New series: Lucinda Lambton Sunnycroft, Shropshire; Sir Derek Jacobi in Devon's coastal resorts; Kraty Wark on the controversial re-gilding of London's Albert Memorial (1) (9461)
- 8.30 The Antiques Show Kitchen ranges, gnomes and rock 'n' roll memorabilia (1) (8596)
- 9.00 Blackadder the Third The devious buffier pulls out all the stops to thwart the efforts of anarchists and agents to overthrow the Prince Regent (1) (8190)
- 9.30 Tinewatch The Roman Army's last great conquest: Dacia (1) (782935)
- 10.20 Meetings with Remarkable Trees The ginkgo, the world's oldest known tree species (1) (822428)
- 10.30 Newsnight (1) (904515)
- 11.15 Snooker: World Championship Conclusion of the day's action (865374)
- 11.55 Weather (215138)
- 12.00 The Midnight Hour with Janet Street-Porter (16287)
- 12.30am Learning Zone: Open University: Empowerment (93349) 1.00 Living with Cracks (10610) 1.30 Inspection by Torchlight (32320) 2.00 Schools: Expressive Arts (77539) 4.00 Languages: Central Bureau - Teaching with Foreign Languages (71691) 5.00 Business and Training: Career Moves (9329558) 5.45 Open University: The Birth of Modern Geometry (74349)

- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (1080157)
 - 9.25 This Morning (1) (9875041)
 - 9.30 Vanessa (9121157)
 - 10.10 This Morning (1) (7172833)
 - 12.15pm Regional News (6341196)
 - 12.30 News (1) and weather (45866)
 - 1.00 Shortland Street (89206)
 - 1.30 Home and Away (1) (44157)
 - 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (2542461)
 - 2.45 Waffle (1) (674206)
 - 3.15 News (1) (2882916)
 - 3.20 Regional News (1) (2812157)
 - 3.25 Potamus Park (1) (2885480) 3.35 Wzadora (1) (8160022) 3.45 Paddington Bear (1) (9151409) 3.50 Rocky and the Dodos (9132374) 4.00 Scooby and Scrappy Doo (1) (1) (9803374) 4.15 Extreme Ghostbusters Animated adventures (1) (2865190) 4.40 Wavelength. Last in series (1) (9155409)
 - 5.10 WALES: The Electric Chair (1305409)
 - 5.10 What's My Line? (1) (1305409)
 - 5.40 News (1) and weather (357138)
 - 6.00 Home and Away (1) (780577)
 - 6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (1) (671863)
 - 6.25 HTV Weather (394683)
 - 6.30 The West Tonight (1) (913)
 - 7.00 Emmerdale Will has a surprise visitor (1) (787)
 - 7.30 WALES: Your Channel: HTV The First 30 Years Alan Haines Davies looks at programmes from the 1960s (515)
 - 7.30 People and Pets Last in series (1) (515)
 - 8.00 The Bill: Target Man Football fever grips Sun Hill (1) (8515)
 - 8.30 Holding the Baby New comedy series following the misadventures of Gordon Muir, a single father. With Hugh Bonneville (1) (5022)
- Movers suffers from amnesia (8pm)**
- 9.00 The Unknown Soldier Three-part drama set in the First World War. With Gary Mavers and Juliet Aubrey (1) (1157)

10.00 News (1) and weather (87374)

10.30 Regional News (1) (850567)

10.40 Children of the Ashes Following the return of three war orphans from the Vietnam War to their home country (1) (745799)

11.40 WALES: Charlie Grace (761022)

11.40 Canvas: Art and Science (2/3) (761022)

12.00am Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (404726)
- 1.10 The Fashion Police (1) (2968707)
- 1.45 The Blockbuster Entertainment Awards 1998 (1) (420900)
- 3.25 Football Extra (1) (5920894)
- 4.00 ITV Sport Classics: Bob Hope Classic (1) (4476223)
- 4.25 ITV Nightscene (3800707)
- 5.30 News (31542)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except.
 - 1.00pm A Country Practice (66206)
 - 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (6037596)
 - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1305409)
 - 6.25-7.00 Central News (671683)
 - 7.30-8.00 Heart of the Country (515)
 - 11.40 Remegade (101022)
 - 1.30am Football League Extra (8912271)
 - 4.00 Central Jobfinder '98 (8093374)
 - 5.25 Asian Eye (4842875)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except.
- 12.27pm-12.30 Illuminations (2165886)
 - 1.00 Emmerdale (66206)
 - 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (6037596)
 - 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1305409)
 - 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (20577)
 - 7.30-8.00 A Place in My Heart (515)
 - 11.40 Charlie Grace (761022)
- MERIDIAN**
- As HTV West except.
- 12.15-12.30 News and Weather (6341916)
 - 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1305409)
 - 6.00 Meridian Tonight (751)
 - 6.30-7.00 Under Offer (913)
 - 7.30-8.00 Quids in (515)
 - 11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (761022)
- ANGLIA**
- As HTV West except.
- 1.00-1.30 Surprise Chefs (89206)
 - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1305409)
 - 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (671683)
 - 7.30-8.00 Craven's Collectables (515)
 - 11.40 Anglia Kick-Off (761022)
- SAG**
- Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (11577)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (74461)
 - 9.00 FILM: Don't Take It to Heart (18837008)
 - 10.40 Das Dumme Ganslein (9108918)
 - 10.55 Wolf (5192515)
 - 11.00 TV Dinners (3022)
 - 11.30 Powerhouses (4751)
 - 12.00pm Montel Williams (17515)
 - 12.30 Sesame Street (43428)
 - 1.00 Slot Meitshrin (63705119)
 - 1.15 Deri Deg (63783799)
 - 1.35 FILM: Powder River (4829374)
 - 3.00 Wild About the Garden (3428)
 - 3.30 Collectors' Lot (409)
 - 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (916)
 - 4.30 Countdown (428)
 - 5.00 5 Pump (5645)
 - 5.30 I Dream of Jeannie (480)
 - 6.00 Newyddion 6 (114751)
 - 6.10 Heno (912026)
 - 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (694867)
 - 7.25 Glangwyl (970886)
 - 8.00 Y Cyfansoddydd (4157)
 - 8.30 Newyddion 3654
 - 9.00 Bati e'r Genddoes (9799)
 - 10.00 Brookside (853157)
 - 10.35 FILM: Desperately Seeking Susan (4029907)
 - 12.35am Newsworld (4403087)
 - 1.05 Slip Love Lies & Lipstick (4814165)
 - 1.35 Gas (8125639)
 - 2.05 Dredd (38065320)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.00am Sesame Street (11577)
 - 7.00 The Big Breakfast (74461)
 - 9.00 Don't Take It to Heart (1944, b/w) Satirical comedy Richard Gere and Patricia Medina. Directed by Jeffrey Dell (16837008)
 - 10.40 Das Dumme Ganslein (Silly Little Goose) (910918) 10.55 Wolf (5192515) 11.00 TV Dinners. Chills in everything (1) (1) (3022) 11.30 Powerhouse (1) (4751) 12.00 Sesame Street (1) (17515) 12.30pm I Dream of Jeannie (1) (442428) 1.00 Baby Baby (84848) 1.30 Silves (1) (7219461)
 - 1.50 Army Boy (1965, b/w) Comedy about Army recruits, with Harry H. Corbett and Stanley Baxter. Directed by Frank Launder (1) (84180683)
 - 3.30 Collectors' Lot A tea shop that hasn't changed for 150 years. One woman's collection of 30,000 pictures of the Royal Family. Actor Jesse Birdsall's record collection (409)
 - 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (916) 4.30 Countdown (1) (8200119) 4.55 Ricki Lake: It's My Way or the Highway (1) (4319438) 5.30 Bewitched (1) (1) (480)
 - 6.00 Late Lunch (1) (393)
 - 6.30 Hollywood (1) (645)
 - 7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (511022)
 - 7.50 Photo '98 Steve Hawley and Jonathan Allen's Stone Troupers (1) (750157)
 - 8.00 Classic Trains: Express! The history of express trains and record speeds (1) (1) (4157)
 - 8.30 Brookside Sinbad faces up to the possibility of losing everything due to Ron's betrayal. Max and Jacqui become closer. Peter and Lindsay wait for news about Kylie (1) (3664)
 - 9.00 Assault on the Mind (2/2) Meeting two more participants in Oxford University's study into Alzheimer's (1) (9798)

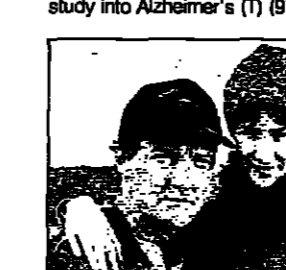
- CHANNEL 5**
- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder N 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder N 63 are: pictures: 5.02075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz.
- 6.00am 5 News Early (2587886)
 - 7.00 WorldWide (1) (1) (2533428) 7.30 Milkshake! (595770) 7.45 Winzoo's House (8328138) 8.00 Havinzoo (1) (8744461) 8.30 Dappledown Farm (1) (8743732)
 - 9.00 Espresso (9484867) 10.00 Birds of the Snow (1) (1) (7655383) 10.30 Sunset Beach (1) (2510521) 11.10 Leaza (6570577)
 - 12.00 5 News (1) With Rob Butler (8754848) 12.30pm Family Affairs (1663138) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (1252789) 1.30 Sons and Daughters (1667400) 2.00 Open House with Gloria Hunniford (7680222) 3.00 100 Per Cent Gold (8533374)
 - 3.30 Francis Gary Powers: The True Story of the US Spy Incident (1975) with Lee Majors. Events surrounding the shooting down of an American spy plane over the Soviet Union in May 1960. Directed by Debra Mann (2930003)
 - 5.20 Russell Grant's Postcards Russell Grant presents a tour of the British Isles, visiting some of our best known and loved destinations (24724687)
 - 5.30 The Great British Game Lanthyrlock. Contest (1) (1) (6146429)
 - 6.00 100 Per Cent (6136041)
 - 6.30 Family Affairs Nick watches the graffiti of the caravan and restores normality to the builders' yard (1) (8127339)
 - 7.00 5 News (1) (8535883)
 - 7.30 Birds of the Snow: Bird People of Japan (1) (8123577)
 - 8.00 The Great Garden Game Lanthyrlock in Cornwall. Last in series (1) (8330003)
 - 8.30 Chef School (8358138)
 - 9.00 The Sweeney Regan discovers successful people will stop at nothing to keep their skeletons in the cupboard (5601312)
 - 10.00 Drugs Are Us Special report presented by Vanessa Collinghorn on all aspects of drug use in Britain today (1) (5611799)
 - 11.00 The Jack Docherty Show Late night chat and comedy (8016935)
 - 11.40 Movie Cafe Julia Bradbury presents the film magazine (1050883)
 - 12.00am Live and Dangerous Featuring Australian rules football, motor sport and international football (23204233)
 - 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (2008097)
 - 5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (9349504)



Derek Jacobi revisits Devon (8pm)



Movers suffers from amnesia (8pm)



Randy Quaid and Laura Dern (10pm)



Vanessa hosts a debate (10pm)

- For further listings see Saturday's Vision**
- SKY 1**
- 7.00am Tainted Teenage Alien Fighters from Outer Space (1989) 7.30 Games World (182812) 7.45 Simpsons (48887) 8.15p Gun (867517) 8.30 Home (86887) 9.00 Another World (40428) 11.00 Day of Our Lives (31119) 12.30pm M*A*S*H (81292) 1.00 Gun (867517) 2.00 Jerry Jones (8429) 4.00 Open (77525) 5.00 Star Trek: Next Generation (85719) 6.00 Dream Team (3825) 6.30 Morned with Children (7515) 7.00 Simpsons (6003) 7.30 Real TV (3799) 8.00 Speed (8751) 8.30 World's Scariest Places (11956) 9.00 World's Scariest Places (11956) 9.30 World's Scariest Places (11956) 10.00 Lint: Live and Unhatched (19439) 11.00 Star Trek: Next Generation (41157) 12.00 Trains (20578) 1.00am Long Play (8341558)
- SKY BOX OFFICE**
- Sky's pay-per-view movie channel. To view any film telephone 0800 080088. Each film costs £2.99 per viewing.
- SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 28)**
- Slits (1989)
- SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)**
- William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet (1989)
- SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 89)**
- Seena Jane (1989)
- SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 59)**
- The Saint (1989)
- SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1**
- 6.00am The Seven Year Itch (1955) 1.00pm The Seven Year Itch (1955) 2.00pm The Seven Year Itch (1955) 3.00pm The Seven Year Itch (1955) 4.00pm The Seven Year Itch (1955) 5.00pm The Seven Year Itch (1955) 6.00pm The Seven Year Itch (1955) 7.00pm The Seven Year Itch (1955) 8.00pm The Seven Year Itch (1955) 9.00pm The Seven Year Itch (1955) 10.00pm The Seven Year Itch (1955) 11.00pm The Seven Year Itch (1955) 12.00am The Seven Year Itch (1955)
- SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2**
- 7.00am Aerobics (432547) 7.30 Sports Centre (817504) 8.00 Sports Centre (817504) 8.30 Sports Centre (817504) 9.00 Sports Centre (817504) 9.30 Sports Centre (817504) 10.00 Sports Centre (817504) 10.30 Sports Centre (817504) 11.00 Sports Centre (817504) 11.30 Sports Centre (817504) 12.00 Sports Centre (817504)
- SKY MOVIES SCREEN 7**
- 6.00am Home Comes Mr Jordan (1960) (3418577) 8.00 Salt Water Moon (1960) (32133) 10.00 Bachelor Flat (1962)

- SKY SPORTS 1**
- 12.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 1.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 2.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 3.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 4.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 5.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 6.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 7.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 8.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 9.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 10.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 11.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 12.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732)
- SKY MOVIES GOLD**
- 4.00pm Vivacious Lady (1938) (4873428) 6.00 Earth Girls Are Easy (1989) (854472) 8.00 Ghostbusters (1984) (800527) 10.00 Mico (1989) (471517) 11.40 Slits (1989) (8718684) 1.00am The Princess of Wales (1989) (5211233) 3.00 Vivacious Lady (1938) (3894078) 5.00 Close
- TNT**
- 9.00pm Seven Faces of Dr Lao (1984) (8042354) 11.00 Morned with Children (7515) (8577462) 2.45 Seven Faces of Dr Lao (1984) (8042354) 5.00 Close
- SKY SPORTS 2**
- 7.00am Sports Centre (720411) 7.30 League Review (88448) 8.00 Survival of the Fittest (1989) (854472) 8.30 Sports Centre (817504) 9.00 Sports Centre (817504) 9.30 Sports Centre (817504) 10.00 Sports Centre (817504) 10.30 Sports Centre (817504) 11.00 Sports Centre (817504) 11.30 Sports Centre (817504) 12.00 Sports Centre (817504)
- SKY SPORTS 3**
- 12.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 1.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 2.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 3.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 4.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 5.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 6.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 7.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 8.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 9.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 10.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 11.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 12.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732)
- EUROSPORT**
- 7.30am Athletics (671577) 11.00 Football (37157) 12.30pm Football: Road to the World Cup (29496) 1.30 Live Wrestling (82941732) 2.00 Sports (30428) 4.00 Olympic Magazine (3816) 4.30 Football (81274) 5.00 Live Wrestling (82941732) 6.00 Live Wrestling (82941732) 7.00 Live Wrestling (82941732) 8.00 Live Wrestling (82941732) 9.00 Live Wrestling (82941732) 10.00 Live Wrestling (82941732) 11.00 Live Wrestling (82941732) 12.00 Live Wrestling (82941732)
- UK GOLD**
- 9.00am Never the Twain (8947664) 7.30p Nightingale (463077) 8.00p Crossroads (592888) 8.25p EastEnders (8283303) 9.00p The Bill (6426454) 9.30p Howards Waddell (814242) 10.00p The Return of Sherlock Holmes (1923206) 10.30p The Sullivan (922306) 11.00p Casanova (864167) 12.00p Crossroads (592888) 1.00am EastEnders (8283303) 1.30am EastEnders (8283303) 2.00am EastEnders (8283303) 2.30am EastEnders (8283303) 3.00am EastEnders (8283303) 3.30am EastEnders (8283303) 4.00am EastEnders (8283303) 4.30am EastEnders (8283303) 5.00am EastEnders (8283303) 5.30am EastEnders (8283303) 6.00am EastEnders (8283303) 6.30am EastEnders (8283303) 7.00am EastEnders (8283303) 7.30am EastEnders (8283303) 8.00am EastEnders (8283303) 8.30am EastEnders (8283303) 9.00am EastEnders (8283303) 9.30am EastEnders (8283303) 10.00am EastEnders (8283303) 10.30am EastEnders (8283303) 11.00am EastEnders (8283303) 11.30am EastEnders (8283303) 12.00am EastEnders (8283303)
- GRANADA PLUS**
- 6.00am The Box (9480033) 7.00p E! Extreme (82941732) 7.30p E! Extreme (82941732) 8.00p E! Extreme (82941732) 8.30p E! Extreme (82941732) 9.00p E! Extreme (82941732) 9.30p E! Extreme (82941732) 10.00p E! Extreme (82941732) 10.30p E! Extreme (82941732) 11.00p E! Extreme (82941732) 11.30p E! Extreme (82941732) 12.00p E! Extreme (82941732)

- SATELLITE AND CABLE**
- 6.00 Sports Unlimited (780983) 7.30 Live Football League (8176119) 8.00 Crossroads (592888) 8.25 EastEnders (8283303) 9.00 Women's Cup (907897) 1.00am League Review (1047634) 1.00am News (703932) 2.00 Close
- SKY SPORTS 3**
- 12.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 1.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 2.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 3.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 4.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 5.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 6.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 7.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 8.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 9.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 10.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 11.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732) 12.00 Wrestling: Live Wire (82941732)
- EUROSPORT**
- 7.30am Athletics (671577) 11.00 Football (37157) 12.30pm Football: Road to the World Cup (29496) 1.30 Live Wrestling (82941732) 2.00 Sports (30428) 4.00



ATHLETICS 45
Marathon winners
contemplate
the road ahead

SPORT

TUESDAY APRIL 28 1998

CRICKET 49
Surrey present
credentials
for title chase



Club coach fears for Dallaglio

Melville urges
England not
to risk players

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NIGEL MELVILLE yesterday called on England not to risk the long-term health of key players and said that the selectors should have no qualms about leaving those not fully fit out of the tour to the southern hemisphere.

possible squad." Woodward said. "I will only pick players and management who are committed to going and are physically fit to do so."

record. However, the problems that Woodward faces become fully apparent when the list of potential absentees is considered.

POSSIBLE ENGLAND XV

IF England are hit by injuries and unavailability, they could still field a side including no newcomers. Clive Woodward has capped 33 players in eight matches which, taken with the players who won caps under Jack Rowell last summer, gives him a broad base.

- M Perry (Bath)
D Pass (Sale)
W Greenwood (Leicester)
A Healy (Leicester)
A King (Wasps)
M Dawson (Northampton)
G Rowntree (Leicester)
R Coates (Leicester)
W Green (Wasps)
G Archer (Newcastle)
D Greenwood (Saracens)
B Clarke (Plymouth)
N Black (Leicester)
A Diprose (Saracens, captain)

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

- ACROSS: 1 Confusing egg red/green (6-5)
8 Correct (computer program) (5)
9 Bead of moisture (7)
10 Bird: sounds like variety act (4)
11 Separate, distinct (8)
13 Non-boarding pupil (5,3)
14 University site (6)
17 Having tendency: sloped (8)
19 Bird: choirboy's friend (4)
22 Maliciously misrepresent (7)
23 Cranny: rattle of coins (5)
24 Emergency support (esp. naut.) (5,6)
DOWN: 1 Officer trainee (5)
2 Freedom (7)
3 Strongly advise (4)
4 One-room living space (6)
5 Rigid: old warship (8)
6 Dig deep (5)
7 Emphasis: pressure (6)
12 Aloneness (8)
13 Refined, fastidious (6)
15 Over-modest, prim (7)
16 Newish (6)
18 Grossly stupid (5)
20 Hindu holy man: sounds like charlatan (5)
21 Read quickly (4)

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP
NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE



White enjoys overwhelming popular support in Sheffield, but he faces a daunting task against O'Sullivan in the quarter-finals today

Fans rally behind great White hope

By PHIL YATES

JIMMY WHITE, arguably the most naturally talented and indisputably the most popular player never to win the Embassy world snooker championship, shoulders a huge burden of expectation in the quarter-finals at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield today.

saw him brush past Morgan on Sunday evening. It seems to matter little that White has raised similar hopes so many times before, or that he has not won a tournament since the European League in 1993.

White has sensibly isolated the "danger of getting carried away" as his worst enemy after an exhibition against Morgan that, in terms of quality, represented an improvement on that which enabled him to defeat Hendry, the world No.1.

be supplied by Ronnie O'Sullivan, successful in eight of their previous 11 meetings. O'Sullivan advanced in typically effortless fashion last night, completing a comprehensive 13-4 win over Alan McManus with a 134 total clearance.

Ebdon registered breaks of 104, 108 twice, and 124. He has now completed six centuries in the championship and will be optimistic of overcoming Mark Williams, a player as laid-back as Ebdon is intense, for a semi-final place.

Cup travels towards a welcome conclusion

By SIMON WILDE

THE least-loved of the four county competitions embarks on its final journey today. The abolition of the Benson and Hedges Cup, which came in as the last of the four 26 years ago, was one of the few recommendations in Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth's Raising the Standard not to meet opposition. Effectively, it will be replaced next year by the Super Cup - illogically, a one-day competition for the top eight finishers in the four-day championship.

weather frequently unfavourable, the knockout stage in the wake of the summer's first internationals. Few finals have stuck in the memory. The domestic programme next year will have a more rational look but today the championship is obliged to go.



Surrey players hold the trophy aloft after their win over Kent in the one-sided final at Lord's last year

United add Stam to collection

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ALEX FERGUSON, the Manchester United manager, spoke yesterday of his 12-month pursuit of Jaap Stam, the PSV Eindhoven defender who will become the club's record signing, at £10 million, next week.

Both start away from home. Surrey, who hope to have the Pakistan off spinner, Saqlain Mushtaq, back in their side, at Southampton and Kent at Taunton.

A more even contest might be expected at Headingly, where Yorkshire play Worcestershire, who are strengthened by the arrival of their captain, Tom Moody. Worcestershire won in the group stages at Leeds last year, their only victory over county opposition in two years, but Yorkshire have started the season confidently and could be hard to stop.

BUPA Health Screening advertisement with contact information and form.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.